
Invincible Saint ~ Salaryman, the Path I Walk to Survive in This Other World~

– Book 5 –

Rebuilding Ienith's Healer's Guild

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Synopsis:

One day, Earth's God of Destiny, and Galdardia's Chief God had a bet.

The God of Destiny lost, and chose ten mediocre souls to hand over.

To those ten souls, the Chief God of Galdardia handed them new vessels.

*And amongst those mediocre souls was one salaryman who fought against his
destiny of death.*

*How will this man grow from now on? Not the God of Destiny, nor the Chief
God of Galdardia, nor even the author themselves know.*

[Translated by: Tseirp Translations]

Chapter 54

Entering Ienith.

Still some distance away from the capital

The Free City-State of Ienith is made up of autonomous city-states free from racial discrimination. Every 2 years, the races elect a representative and there will be another campaign to select the representative from that pool of individuals to run the country democratically.

This time, when I set off towards Ienith, I was granted Fornoir by the Pope. Yanbusan had the intention to do so as well, and he handed him over with a smile while asking me to take good care of him.

That was 9 days ago. Currently, we were visiting various villages, securing beds to sleep on by applying healing magic. The course was southwards and we would pass Ienith's international border by tomorrow ... that's the situation.

“With this, everyone's treatment is done.”

I said to the village elder and a few other self-proclaimed elderly, and I was allowed to return to my accommodation.

“Is it really alright for us to only provide bedding?”

There's no need to show such a concerned expression ... I thought as I decided and spoke out.

“Lately, I have taken to cooking. I still can't make delicious food, but I'm making them every day.”

“Is that so? If there's anything you need, just let us know and we will prepare it for you.”

After that conversation ended, I walked towards the place allocated to us for accommodation.

“Luciel-sama, this is amazingly convenient. Even I can operate it.”

The Priest Knight Piazza-san excitedly showed me a magic tool. That's right, it's the magic tool of the reincarnated individual? named Ryina. What he was holding on to was her new invention Sparkling-kun.

Placing Sparkling-kun into a pot makes hot water and washes the vegetables. She created it for me because I heard in my previous life that, not only limited to the pre-cooking preparation of leafy vegetables, washing anything before cooking makes it more delicious.

“Because washing them one-by-one is troublesome right. It even boils the water to finish up right?”

“Yeah. This is amazing too. Because it keeps warm at a certain temperature using constant heating power. I definitely want to buy this when I go back to the Holy City.”

I expected so.

“Well, we won't be returning for the time being but if I have the chance I'll teach you about the magic tool shop. Well then the food might not taste delicious but I will be making dinner, so can everyone else prepare the bedding?”

『Yes!』

The 8 subordinates moved about. By the way, on the journey up until now we had not been attacked by monsters, let alone bandits. The reason why was because the Adventurer's Guild set off in advance and crushed them all.

As a celebration of the departure of the S-rank healer, the Adventurer's Guild guildmaster Granz-san ordered adventurers to go on ahead up until the country's border.

“They are even coming to welcome us in Ienith, I'm truly thankful but it's really troubling ... how should I return the favour.”

I cooked while pondering about that.

Today's dish was pot-au-feu with fluffy bread made by using the liquid from the fermentation of squeezed grapes in a pre-purified bottle. I learnt this cooking method from Grulga-san.

While eating, everyone had fundamental magic training together. Giving each other effective advice on what kind of image to use for the respective magic, we trained on magical power manipulation after we finished our meal.

As expected, everyone was excellent since they were assigned to the church headquarters. There were plenty of them who gave easier to understand explanations and images than me. Every member shared their methods and proactively absorbed the good points.

Just by doing that, my 「Leadership」 skill was going up but I didn't realise it for several days.

“We'll be entering Ienith tomorrow, but how does Luciel-sama plan to rebuild the Healer's Guild?”

The person who asked that was Jordo-san.

“Truthfully, I have not thought of anything yet. I have no idea why the Healer's Guild disappeared and it would be bad to make a decision from hearsay. This time, we were dispatched due to their request, but please by no means act conceited. I think that there would definitely be problems due to the various races. If there are any problems, even if they are small matters, please inform me. We should be able to solve the problems if we share such reports. I might have to discuss with you all as well so please assist me.”

Magical power manipulation training ended shortly after.

The next day, we left the village that aided us and travelled towards Ienith. As the number of trees gradually decreased and grasslands changed into wilderness, we came across a valley between two mountains.

“That is the border. We will rendezvous with the welcome party from Ienith after we cross that valley.”

“Thank you. It's only a bit more so hang in there guys.”

After casting 「Area High Heal」 and 「Area Barrier」 on my subordinates and the purification magic that Fornoir loves every once in a while, we've finally arrived at the border.

Diving through the gate between the mountains? or more precisely cliffs, I felt that the ambient temperature suddenly rose. But maybe due to the effect of my equipment, I wasn't really bothered by it.

“Healer oniichan~”

A single young girl ran over from the group that should be our welcome party from Ienith. Oh? That girl is ... Shi-chan ... ah, Sheila-chan.

“That’s definitely the welcome party from Ienith. I see some acquaintances so everyone please stand-down.”

Just after I dismounted from Fornoir, she leaped over so I had to catch her. ... But the momentum was so strong that I was almost blown off my feet. I somehow endured it but the shock made me unconsciously cast 「Area Heal」 with 「Chant Termination」. The acceleration speed of a beastman is really abnormal.

“Sheila-chan right. I see that you’ve recovered your voice.”

“Yup. I became able to speak the day I bid farewell to healer oniichan.”

“I see. Maybe the Gods rewarded Shiela-chan for the hard work you did on that day.”

When I parted with her I chanted 「Extra Heal」 but my proficiency was slightly insufficient. The one who healed her might have really been God.

“Ehehe.”

While thinking about Shiela-chan who had a wide grin on her face, I led Fornoir and walked together with Shiela-chan towards the group that came from Ienith to welcome us.

“Deviant Saint-sama, as well as everyone from the church, I am very grateful that you all came to Ienith. I am Shaza, a tiger beastman and the representative this time around.”

“Thank you for welcoming us. I am the S-rank healer Luciel. Including me, the 9 of us will be the first to take up our new post in Ienith.”

“Ooo. We’re grateful. Although we are called the Free City-State of Ienith, in the capital there are only Herbalist Guilds everywhere and no healers around. We are thankful that you are willing to do something about it.”

“I intend to achieve that, but I wish to slowly understand the situation in Ienith by observing the site and asking around.”

“Thank you. There is still a 3-day distance from here to the capital, so we would have to trouble you all to continue travelling for a bit more. We’ll be in your care.”

... There’s still such a long distance? Ha~ Even though I had such feelings, it didn’t show through my poker face as I held out my hand in response to Shaza-san.

“We’ll be in your care too.”

During my handshake with Shaza-san, I had a feeling ... that he is considerably strong. Is martial prowess required to be a representative?

We entered the country of Ienith and set off towards the capital of Ienith.

Chapter 55

Rocky road ahead to rebuilding the Healer's Guild

During our journey towards the Free City-States of Ienith, we were caught in multiple battles with monsters, but the Ienith beastmen troop including the leader Shaza-san defeated the monsters in a blink of the eye.

I only had to spread out a barrier and heal the wounded soldiers. I was thinking that my level would not be able to go up if I only did that, but it went up.

I asked Jordo-san and was told that I can level up by providing support such as using a barrier. If that's the case, then power levelling can be done?

As I thought about that, exactly 3 days after entering the territory of the Free City-States of Ienith, we arrived at the capital Ienith.

Shiela-chan often came over to talk with me during breaks, but I mostly conversed with Shaza-san when we were moving so I didn't have much chance to interact with Sheila-chan.

In my conversations with Shaza-san, he also included some of his requests for the Healer's Guild.

- He wishes for the healing price to be reduced according to the cost of living.
- To heal in accordance with the law with regards to different races.
- It's not definite but as a preface, he would like to have us participate in battles with monsters to provide healing.

“Also, it is inexcusable but we leave it to the Saint Schull Church to establish the healer clinic.”

Those were the words he said to me when I first laid eyes on the capital of Ienith. For the points above, I did not give a reply immediately but instead discussed with my subordinates. Therefore, I returned with a smile.

“Is that so. I am sorry if I was misunderstood, but we are not a charitable organization. Besides, we can consider that after things have calmed down. We must first return the Healer’s Guild to an operational state.”

I only said that much before cutting off.

Somehow, I did not have a bad premonition. Because not only was Shiela-chan the weakness of Shaza-san, there was also not any need to raise my voice any more than necessary for the surrounding people that I had already met during that event 2 years ago.

Holding on to my suspicions, we had finally arrived at the capital Ienith.

This is ... my subordinates and I were at a loss for words. The reason was the Healer’s Guild.

” ... Is this the slums?”

“Yeah. But the truth is that the Healer’s Guild was originally here. We wanted to relocate to somewhere else but there wasn’t any land available.”

Although he said that he is sorry, Shaza-san ... or I’ll just call him Shaza from now. This guy’s eyes were laughing as he averted his face.

“Okay. I understand. Well then, for the sake of rebuilding the Healer’s Guild, the treatment prices will remain the same. In cases whereby the patient doesn’t have enough, they will pay with their body.”

“Do you plan to make them into slaves?”

His eyes flashed belligerently but compared to Shisho this cat still have a long way to go. I told myself so before speaking out.

“No, we will have them offset the price of treatment by doing work for us like carpentry work. We will have them pledge to the church. Unlike vowing to God, we can bind them to their pledge by having them do so.”

“How is that different from slavery?”

Even his tone was aggressive?

“I will swear to God. That I will not forcibly command them using their pledge. If the Gods judge that I am unjust, they will likely punish me. I may either lose my ability to use magic or even lose my life. Of course, as the representative, I will have Shaza-san pledge as well.”

Shaza began to show an incredibly flustered expression.

“There is no need to be so afraid. At most the pledge will make your physical level drop to level 1, it would not kill you. If it’s representative Shaza-san, you’ll accept it, right? We will also pour all our efforts into rebuilding the Healer’s Guild.”

“Wa ... wait. If you succeed in rebuilding the Healer’s Guild to that extent, I will try to somehow search for a location to accommodate it.”

“Don’t worry about it. It looks like this city has slave dealers as well, so we can purchase slaves that can act as night watchmen from there, and gradually rebuild the Healer’s Guild. I think that if we don’t do that, we wouldn’t be able to incite a strong desire to establish a healer clinic here.”

I maintained my poker face. To be honest, my speech and conduct do not match, so I was probing my subordinates and deciding on the direction together step-by-step.

“That’s right, there is a welcome party today. Please restore your energy there at the feast.”

“I’m thankful for that.”

I could finally relax my face slightly.

“However, looking at the current situation, it is still ... the God of Healing would be saddened if it remained this way. Not only are we healers, we came from the church headquarters so we will not silently overlook this problem. We shall conduct our pledge now, so I look forward to working with you.”

The moment I held out my hand, he began sweating profusely.

“That’s an amazing amount of perspiration?”

“Deviant Saint-sama, I’m really sorry but I am not feeling so well. I will create an opportunity to meet you tomorrow so please allow me to return for today.”

“If it’s healing magic I can immediately use them now you know? 「High Heal」 , 「Recover」 , 「Purification」 , 「Dispel」 .”

I cast the spells with 「Chant Termination」 , but as expected his condition didn’t change.

“Ooo. That’s excellent. But this is a chronic illness so please excuse me.”

He and his entourage said that and left.

Shiela-chan was the daughter of the previous representative, so she must have been told to not to speak up. She frantically waved at me. And then, as one of the representative, she performed a deep bow before chasing after Shaza’s back.

“I have no idea what to say but our road ahead is difficult.”

“Yeah. Well, for the time being let us proceed after I cast purification magic to clean up. Furthermore, I’ve been having a feeling since earlier that we must visit the slave dealers, so after we have mostly cleaned up, we’ll be going to the slave dealers together. Because I think that it is not good to separate our group now.”

『Yes!』

We cleaned up the spider webs from the leaky roof and the floor that looks like it would collapse anytime.

I was wondering if this was a good occasion to modify the Healer’s Guild. When I told that to my subordinates, for some reason their eyes lit up so it looks like it will be done.

After purifying all the rooms, I only had time to decide on the allocation of rooms, because I now had to allocate rooms for the Priest Knights in charge of guarding Fornoir and the horses as well, before we immediately set off to meet the slave dealers.

Once again, I had no idea that Great Luck-sensei would come to greet me again after such a long time.

Chapter 56

Luciel is a person who looks for bargains

A group dressed in white robes emerged from the slums.

We were extremely not inconspicuous. My subordinates and I called out to the residents and asked for the location of the slave dealers, and found the place before long.

However, there were 3 slave dealers in Ienith and we were rejected by the 1st shop that deny first-time customers. The 2nd shop, maybe due to the handiwork of Shaza, refused to sell to people involved with the Healer's Guild.

[We've been rejected by 2 of the dealers huh. At any rate, I do feel repulsed at the thought of having slaves, but it is a staple of novels that I will make comrades here.]

I thought optimistically.

We arrived at the 3rd slave dealer, but it was a dingy slave dealership located close to the slums.

"Everyone please standby here. This time I plan to buy slaves that excel in combat and carpentry."

I told them before entering the slave dealership.

The interior of the shop was not smelly to that extent, but it also did not give the impression of being clean.

"Is this a slave dealership?"

"Yes it is young master. But the minimum you need is 5 gold pieces so is it alright?"

The person who came out was a wolf beastman with a vulgar smile. To be honest, I can't deal with these types well, but if I want to purchase slaves I don't have a choice.

“Yeah, I’ve brought enough. How much is it for the most expensive slave?”

“Huh? Oh well it doesn’t matter. It is an elf that cost 5 white gold coins, would you like to purchase it?”

I was amazed at the audacity of the man who probed at the contents of my wallet without hesitation but I maintained my poker face.

” ... I am only checking the price. Rather than that, if you have an elf, wouldn’t it be better to clean up the interior of the shop slightly more?”

“Ha~ What’s this? Are you just here to window-shop? I would clean the shop if I get paid for it, but I rather not waste the effort.”

The man’s attitude changed as if he was disappointed because he imagined that he wouldn’t be getting money from me.

“Is that so? But I feel that customers would prefer to view slaves in a clean environment?”

I said that while flipping a white gold coin between my fingers in front of the man’s eyes.

“So you are a young master from a wealthy family after all. Please don’t surprise me like that.”

The man’s attitude did another 180° flip, showing his beastman expression with his ears perked up and his tail swaying about.

“I wish to see all the slaves you have in the shop. Also, I offer to make your shop clean if you reduce the price slightly.”

The man jumped at my offer, rubbing his hands together as he began guiding me through his shop with an effeminate expression.

The slave dealer showed me the slaves in sequence, beginning with the most expensive elf.

I was mystified as I did not see any employees other than that slave dealer, but my purpose wasn’t to meet with the other shop assistants, so I cruised along looking at the slaves under his guide.

The slaves were housed in prisons, male and females were placed in different floors and they were divided into prisons according to their selling price.

I even noticed that there were children missing all four limbs among the slaves. I really wanted to heal each and every one of them, but I knew that doing so would just please the slave dealer so I tightly clenched my fist and endured.

In terms of races, there were humans, dwarves, dragonewts, elves, beastmen ... the range was endless.

However the thing that I was most concerned about was that almost all the slaves had lost the radiance in their eyes.

I observed the slaves. How did this person become a slave? Even though I didn't know about her background, I intuitively felt that I should not purchase the value price elf that the man was promoting.

“Why is it that only despair is reflected in the eyes of the slaves here?”

I was concerned about the eyes that showed no individual will. Even in Botacyl's slaves, I did not feel such darkness and despair at the back of the eyes.

“Of course that's because they are slaves. I'll be troubled if you falsely accuse me.”

The man declared.

“Is that so. Well then, show me the male slaves this time. Because I'm considering getting multiple individuals from here.”

The instant I said that to the slave dealer, I felt the presence of a few of the slaves change, but I decided to not react to that for now.

“Kukuku. Well then please proceed this way.”

I'll say it clearly, somehow this man has been acting scary since a while ago.

There weren't many male slaves.

I observed the male slaves one-by-one as I received explanations for each of them.

I released the intimidation aura, taught to me by Broad-shisho meant for probing a person's courage, at each of them.

Some of the men were frightened, some returned the intimidation.

I chose 3 of the slaves that didn't look like they were trouble if I purchased them.

"This dwarf without arms. This old man with the tendon of both his feet cut. And this dull haired youth. I wish to interview them. Please tell me the price in advance."

The slave dealer made a disappointed face so I guess they are cheap. I imagined as I tilted my head to him.

"This dwarf was originally excellent, but both his arms ended up like this due to an accident so he will be 5 gold coins. I've heard that that old man was quite a considerable warrior as well. But he was betrayed and his feet was cut by a sword coated with poison. Although his life is not in any danger, he can't stand so he will be 5 gold coins. Lastly, this dirty brat seems to be a war slave but he was transported from another country and pushed onto me. Nevertheless, he is young so I guess he will be 20 gold coins."

I've decided that, especially so for these injured individuals, if I healed them with 「Extra Heal」, they can serve as the best reinforcement forces for the Healer's Guild, so I attached great importance to their motivations.

Since the Pope told me that it was okay to use 「Extra Heal」 when I decide that I have no choice but to do so, I was thinking that if I didn't use it now for reinforcements then when else would I use it, as I looked forward to the interviews.

"I see. Then I'll proceed with the interviews. Ah if possible I would like to talk with them one-on-one. I plan to purchase female slaves as well so you can give me some leeway right?"

"Kukuku. If that's the case then it's okay, young master."

Thus I interviewed the 3 of them.

The interview was held in a 6 tatami mat-size room furnished with only a table sandwiched between 2 sofas facing each other.

The first was the dwarf that had lost both arms.

“Please sit down. Firstly, I’ll be asking some questions so please answer truthfully. Before that, I am Luciel, a S-rank healer affiliated to the Healer’s Guild. First question, if I heal dwarf-san’s arms, apart from blacksmithing, can you do carpentry work as well?”

“Un. I am a blacksmith that was bestowed with the blessing of the God of Blacksmith immediately since birth. Woodwork is a required skill for blacksmithing so there is no reason why I would not train in it! Who do you think you are talking to boy.”

Even though he was short, he snorted like he would go berserk if he had arms.

“Is that so. ... Do you have confidence in your arms?”

“Boy ... are you making fun of me?”

I felt that this was proceeding badly so I pushed forward another step.

“I will phrase it differently. If I heal your arms do you swear loyalty to undertake blacksmithing and the remodelling of the guild?”

I looked into his eyes as I said that.

” ... If you really heal me ... and if it is not a bad environment.”

I couldn’t get him to say anything else after that.

The next person was the old man?

“I will speak directly. I believe you are considerably strong. I sense the same presence as Shisho.”

I felt the air the old man carried around himself change.

“Is that related to this?”

“Yeah. I heard that the tendons on both your legs were cut with a poisonous sword when you were betrayed but do you have an idea who did it? And do you wish for revenge?”

“Fu~. No matter how much I wish for revenge and struggle, I cannot compete against an entire nation. Rather than that, I’m more interested in a man who trained himself to such a degree despite being a healer.”

Ah, he gives off the same smell as Shisho after all. Is this the smell of the strong? Somehow I feel that that is wrong.

“My Shisho is known as Whirlwind. Rather than that, who exactly are you? No, let us stop this mutual prying. It looks like you can’t stand if I don’t heal your legs and remove the poison that you are suffering from right?”

” ... That’s right.”

The combative atmosphere was deflated.

“If I make it such that you can move once again, do you pledge to protect us?”

” ... What do you intend to make this old man do for you?”

Within the eyes that were losing their strength, I felt a fire burn once again.

“For the time being, protect the Healer’s Guild and horses we have in this city. Other than that I was thinking of having you conduct combat training for me.”

” ... Just that?”

Was that a look of astonishment?

“Yeah. I have other things in mind but that is all for the time being.”

“Pu, wahahaha. Interesting. If it is true that my lord can heal my injury, I will swear loyalty and call you my lord.”

“Well then please look forward to it.”

Thus the man that looked like an old man instantly regained the vitality in his eyes and I could no longer read his age. I had a feeling that Great Luck-sensei made me get rejected by the other slave dealers so that I would encounter this man.

And lastly, I interviewed the youth that was roughly the same age as me.

“How did you become a slave?”

“I am the son of an aristocrat that lost our territory because we were defeated in the battle with the Empire.”

There was an intense light within his eyes. Perhaps he drifted from the Rubruk Kingdom?

“I see. So what do you wish to do? I believe you are holding on to the feelings of revenge, but I will not allow you to do so.”

” ... ”

He merely continued staring at me.

“If you come with me and protect the Healer’s Guild, I will treat you well even as a slave. However, I hope that you follow me only if you can live for the sake of protecting the guild, if it is impossible for you then you can search for the road to revenge when someone else purchases you.”

My principle is safety first, so I won’t do the impossible and I won’t invite unnecessary grudges. Hence, I left everything up to him. The youth contemplated with a gloomy face.

” ... How long would the term of slavery last?”

He squeezed out a question.

I had no idea how to answer that question so I fell silent. Even though there needs to be a timeline or approach to rebuilding the guild, I had not had the time to think about it. And I could not lie to his earnest eyes.

We both remained in silence for some time. And then I answered.

“To be honest, I have not given thought so soon to when I would release you. After rebuilding the Healer’s Guild, we intend to create a healer clinic in this city. I have no idea how long that would take, and I don’t even know if I can release you after that.”

I was troubled, but actually apart from debt slaves and illegal slaves, there are no release conditions for slaves. For that reason, normally a war slave like him would never be released.

“No way.”

He clenched his fist tightly and hung his head.

The interview with the 3 male slaves ended.

Chapter 57

Purchasing slaves and God's miracle

I cast purification magic on the dull-haired youth.

I prayed that at least some kind-hearted owner would purchase this youth soon.

The youth thanked me before leaving the room.

I stared at the door he left by and muttered.

“It didn’t go as planned.”

I thought about the youth that had just left the room as I shook my head.

“Please do not buy me.”

Within his eyes that were saying so, I felt his will to cling on to the slight possibility. I believed that he would certainly be saddled with Darkness if I bought him so I decided to respect his decision.

“So mortifying. Even though I can’t achieve something to the extent of an Archbishop, to think that I can’t even relieve him of his Darkness ... ”

When I exited the reception room, the slave dealer was waiting while rubbing his hands.

“I will purchase the wisdom of a dwarf and the knowledge of a warrior. Also, I intend to purchase slaves to take care of them so let me see the female slaves once again.”

“Kukuku. Thank you for your patronage, young master.”

The slave dealer and I headed to the female slave floor.

The truth was that I had already asked the dwarf and old man if they had any slaves that they wished for me to purchase, and it looked like they both do, so I intend to buy them. Of course, they wouldn’t be the slaves of slaves.

It is up to others how they might see it, but I decided that the slaves that they requested for would become something that will tie them down. Of course, I do not plan to treat them badly. I intend to humanely connect with them and earn their trust.

When we arrived at the female floor, I recalled the exchange I had during the interview and looked for the slaves.

“What is your name, dwarf-san?”

“It’s Dolan.”

“Dolan-san, do you have anybody you wish to be purchased along with you?”

” ... Why?”

He was fidgeting nervously when he knew that he would be bought, looking at the female slave floor multiple times, so I think it’s normal that I would have guessed.

“If you pledge to use your expertise to rebuilt the Healer’s Guild and freely produce weapons for us, I plan to create an environment whereby you can exhibit your fullest potential.”

I gave him a smile.

” ... Boy, you said that you’re an S-rank healer right? Do you have gold?”

“I have a decent amount. I earned it in an extremely smelly place in Saint Schull Allied Nations by enduring and enduring and defeating undead ...”

Dolan-san felt uneasy from the sorrowful expression that was shown on my face and he shut his eyes and said in a small voice.

” ... I see.”

“That’s why please don’t be reserved. Dolan-san, is there anyone that you wish to be purchased?”

“There is a human and dwarf half-breed girl, but is she still around? She’s my granddaughter. Her name is Paula, she has hazel coloured hair and is a reticent child. She’s only 16 years old but if possible, I would like you to purchase her as well.”

What happened to his previous dignified mannerism? It felt like his pent up feelings burst out but it was out of concern for his family so I was convinced.

“I understand. I will go to the female floor after the interview so I promise that I will buy her if she is there.”

After that, I posed the same question to the old man.

“My name is Lionel. I ask of you to purchase the human and beast race Naria and Ketty if possible. Their ages are 33 and 23.”

“Okay.”

I spotted the 3 individuals whose features I heard from the other 2 and called out to the slave dealer.

“Do you mind if I question the slaves a little?”

“Yeah. No problem.”

I felt that he had totally seen through me but they are a necessary expense so I intend to purchase them even if he pushed for an unreasonable price.

First, I quietly spoke to the hazel-haired girl whose height was only up until my chest height.

“Are you Paula? Give me a nod if you are.”

The girl immediately nodded.

“Firstly, I am Luciel. Dolan-san asked me to buy you as well so I plan to do so. There will be no need to submit your body. I will have Paula-san assist Dolan-san and perform chores for him.”

“Together with grandpa?”

Her facial expression wasn't changing much, but I felt the air soften.

“Yeah. And I will also heal his arms.”

“Kamisama?” (*TL: Kamisama = God*)

She did the classic head tilt gesture. Is that in fashion now?

“I am not God. And so would you pledge your efforts to rebuild the Healer’s Guild just like how Dolan-san did?”

I smiled bitterly as I asked her.

“Okay. If it is the same as grandpa then I’ll pledge to do so.”

I felt that she gave a slight smile.

After that, I said the same to Naria and Ketty.

“Firstly, I am Luciel. Lionel-san asked me to purchase the 2 of you so I plan to do so. There will be no need to submit your body. Do you have any questions?”

“Is Lionel-sama safe?”

“Yeah. He is currently unable to walk but I intend to treat the poison that damaged the nerves and tendon in both his feet.”

“I have sworn allegiance to Lionel-sama nya. I will comply with whatever Lionel-sama says nya.” *(TL: The staple cat character is here!)*

“As long as I can be beside Lionel-sama, I will do anything.”

... Just who the hell is Lionel-san? Well, it looks like there’re no problems here as well. I will leave these 2 girls to Lionel-san.

“Shopkeeper, I will buy the dwarf and old man earlier together with these girls. How much would it be for all of them?”

“Just 1 white gold coin would be sufficient.”

” ... Why is the price cheaper compared to when you first told me?”

“Young master, no, master, it is because it looks like fate ties the two of us together hehehe. For you to purchase so many slaves at one go, I believe you have a plan and budget for many more?”

As usual, the slave dealer maintained a self-depreciating smile and hand rubbing gesture as he inquired. It looked like he was skilled at calculating for future profits but the truth was that I had no such plans so I was troubled as to how to respond ...

“Certainly, I have planned the budget for it. I had no intention to purchase the girls but if I can buy the slave’s motivation with gold then it’s all good.”

“Hehehe. As I suspected. Master, it is still a couple of months away, but there will be a slave auction coming up. Here is the referral letter that will allow you to participate in it, please accept it.”

The man’s tension increased.

” ... There’s such a thing? But why did you hand me the referral letter? Do you give it to anybody?”

I had more and more doubts.

“No no usually I would not hand over the invitation to the auction so easily. However, I offer it to individuals who have financial power like master.”

“How does it benefit you?”

I thought that if it was done without any merit to himself then it can only either be abnormal or a trap.

“If you purchase slaves while holding on to my referral letter, I will be paid a whopping 10 percent reward. Even if master successfully bids for a slave and I, in turn, purchase the slave from you, I will not face any losses.”

I didn’t really get it, but it didn’t felt like he was lying. However, I believe he also didn’t tell the whole truth either.

After purchasing the 5 slaves, I called out to and approached my subordinates waiting outside. We carried Dolan-san and Lionel-san and set off towards the Healer’s Guild building.

All those who witnessed the convincing spectacle of a miracle of God, and those who actually received the miracle of God, everyone simply dedicated their prayer of thanks.

“No, erm. Why is everybody worshiping me?”

I was flustered. Upon casting 「Extra Heal」 on Dolan-san and Lionel-san, both Dolan-san’s arms emerged and the tendon in both Lionel-san’s feet was restored.

In addition, I completed his treatment by applying 「Recover」 on Lionel-san. Dolan-san rotated and grasped his arms, verifying their sense of touch, while Lionel-san stood up and walked slightly, recovering his sense of movement.

Witnessing that spectacle, Dolan-san's granddaughter wept and clung on to her grandfather. Similarly for Lionel-san, he was hugged by the slaves that were purchased together with him.

The Priest Knights and Healers that came along from the church had never actually seen 「Extra Heal」 before. For some time, they knelt on one knee with their hands in front of them, maintaining the pose for dedicating a prayer.

The slaves who saw that ended up mimicking the same pose for dedicating a prayer, I was greatly flustered and asked them to stop but they maintained that pose for some time.

Chapter 58

Who exactly is this person?

After attempting to persuade them countless times, they finally stopped their prayer posture. While thinking that it is amazing in a sense that some people can immerse themselves in the feeling of being almighty, I laughed bitterly at myself who will forever remain as a cowardly person as I addressed everyone.

“Now that you all have settled down, regarding this building’s structure, it has 3 floors above ground and 1 underground floor. The 3rd floor will be the room for the Healer’s Guild guildmaster. The 2nd floor will be used by the people who came along with me from the church headquarters. So, you all will live in the underground floor. Are there any questions?”

I swept my gaze across everyone once but it looked like there weren’t any objections in particular.

“If so then I’ll continue? The underground has 3 rooms so Dolan and Paula will share a room, Cathy and Naria will share a room and I’m sorry but Lionel you will have the smallest room for yourself. Moving on, Fornoir and the horses are housed within the Healer’s Guild for now but leaving it this way will be bad after all. For that reason, I will allow the remodeling of the Healer’s Guild. I believe we can’t extend the building, but as long as you all inform Dolan-san of your requirements, setting aside the judgement of whether it is feasible or not, I will authorize most of the requests because this is meant to be your castle.”

My subordinates all had wide grins across their faces as they were lost in thought in their own fantasy. At that point, I noticed that Dolan-san had raised his hand and was staring at me with a grin.

“What’s the matter? Dolan-san.”

“Ah, yeah. Regarding the extension that Luciel-sama talked about just now, we can easily extend the underground if we use magic? Well if you intend to extend down into more floors then we would need wood and iron.”

Dolan-san said such a thing.

” ... Ha?”

I couldn't wrap my mind around it.

“Dwarves like me live by borrowing the energy from the spirits of fire and earth. That's why we are able to move soil and strengthen fire.”

“Grandpa strengthened the fire too much which caused the workshop to explode.”

Paula added in, causing Dolan to scratch his cheek and face towards the direction of tomorrow.

“So you mean it is possible to extend the underground?”

“Yeah. The worst case scenario would be tampering with the ground poorly resulting in a distorted foundation causing the building to collapse, but dwarves like me can hear the voices of spirits so we are able to excavate deep into the earth and expand horizontally as well.”

Had I somehow obtained a cheat-like dwarf? It can't be helped that my cheeks hardened and twitched due to the shock. *(TL: The cheeks on his face okay. What are you thinking about? xD)*

” ... I understand. Let us gradually work out the details for that. Next, Cathy, Naria, and Paula, can you all cook?”

Cathy and Paula averted their gazes but Naria looked like she could and she nodded.

“Okay. I will cook because I am interested in cooking but I will ask for your assistance.”

“Certainly, master.”

I was troubled for being addressed like that, but I didn't think of anything else for them to call me. Therefore, I gave it some thought before talking.

“I've been troubled by having -sama attached to my name since my time at the church, so from this occasion on until the Healer's Guild is rebuilt, please call me either master or Luciel-dono.” *(TL: the master here is for guildmaster, not the*

Goshujinsama said just now by Naria, usually used by slaves towards their masters.)

“Okay (Yes!). Luciel-dono (Master).”

With this the living area and cooking staff have been assigned, so next would be shopping for necessities including clothes ... but as to be expected it would be bad to do so with this number of people again.

“Now, I plan to purchase clothes, bed, and food etc. Lionel, can you use a sword?”

“I can use most types of swords. My specialized weapons are greatswords and long spears.”

Why did this person’s eyes sparkle when we touched upon the topic of weapons? Am I the only one who thinks that it is scary?

“Well then, I will lend you the sword I received from my Shisho so I will have to trouble you with escorting me.”

I asked my subordinates to do something else.

“We will unload everyone’s personal belongings and magic tools before going so please sort them out.”

I felt a reaction from Paula when magic tools were mentioned but I intentionally ignored that.

“I’ll be worried if you only take the recuperating Lionel-sama along with you for protection nya.”

Cathy declared. We would have to get female undergarments as well so I agreed to let her come along.

Maybe because I never decided to resale my weapons, I still had my Holy silver one-handed sword so I equipped her with that.

I noticed Lionel-san staring at the sword I received from Shisho at the corner of my eyes. He returned the sword to its sheath and said to me.

“It looks like you are cherished by your Shisho, Luciel-dono.”

I smiled and nodded.

After that, Naria offered to cut Lionel's unkempt hair but there wasn't enough time so we just tied his hair and only shaved his beard. He transformed from an old man into a dignified boss.

The Priest Knights who saw that stopped their hands and stiffened. I guess it was that surprising. I lent used robes to the 2 of them and we left to shop.

By the way, this time, we walked.

I bought large quantities of vegetables and fruits from the shops that sold to us. That's right. Even here there were some shops who did not want to do business with us, so I had no choice but to buy in bulk.

Next, Dolan asked me to purchase iron swords (doesn't matter if they are dull) and iron wares so I bought those in large quantities as well. We did not meet with any interferences at the lumber mill but the price was considerably steep.

Also, regarding the lack of honorifics, Lionel and Dolan strictly cautioned me against using -san when calling them so I complied. Most likely it has something to do with public appearances.

Thus, we had purchased an impressively large quantity of goods that made Cathy's eye widen.

"Thank you very much."

After the shop assistant from the last shop led us out, I muttered.

"Looks like we are getting obstructed quite significantly."

The words weren't aimed at the 2 of them but they both halted.

"I knew it was about time nya."

"Bah ridiculous. Not only is their tailing unsatisfactory, to think that they attacked us with this number of small fries."

I don't know why, but I intuitively sensed a battle approach when I saw the 2 of them unsheathe their swords and immediately deployed a 「Area Barrier」 before informing them.

“Apart from monsters, please avoid killing as much as possible.”

The 2 of them nodded silently and stood in front and behind me. From the shadows of the building, more than 10 armed men swooped down on us.

I'll announce the conclusion first. It was a complete victory.

Lionel sheathed his sword while avoiding the attacks, striking them with the sheath or punching them in their belly, causing the assailants to sink to their feet.

“Too easy, seriously too easy.”

That conduct reminded me of a boss character from somewhere, but it's a secret.

On the other hand, Cathy overwhelmed the assailants using a speed that I could somehow manage to follow.

Punching while avoiding slashes from swords, sending them flying with roundhouse kicks to their faces, and striking them with the flat of her sword. It was a complete victory for this side as well.

“They have only fainted nya. I struck them with the flat of my blade so don't worry nya.”

She said such a signature phrase, but I completely can't understand how these people became slaves.

The 2 of them dragged the assailants and gathered them in a single location. They requested for a rope from me so I hurriedly dug some out from my magic bag and passed it to them.

I was immensely curious about who the 2 of them are exactly, more so than the assailants. After gathering the evidence and goods, I wanted to return to the Healer's Guild but was halted by Lionel.

“Luciel-dono, let us drag these people as they are now to their chief in Ienith. If we bring them to the Healer's Guild like this, we might be accused of kidnapping them.”

He advised. I decided to follow his advice. Lionel somehow amazingly tied all 13 assailants with a rope and started dragging them.

Just who the heck is he exactly? That question alone spun around in my brain.

I walked beside Lionel as he dragged the assailants while Cathy followed behind remaining vigilant towards the surroundings.

We aimed for the largest mansion as we received dumbfounded looks from the surroundings.

The shop we did our shopping at was located near to the large building where Shaza and his group most likely was. The distance was roughly about 5 minutes away.

The soldier that was guarding the building stiffened at the sight that rarely occurs.

If it was me I would have been unable to stand due to the surprise, so I pitied him and concentrated on clearly explaining ourselves.

“I am the S-rank healer Luciel. I was absent from the banquet held today but I was attacked in the city. I wish to propose some improvements to the public safety, so is it possible for me to have an audience with Shaza-dono?”

After telling him that, the guard ran inside hastily.

“Since he didn't even say a word about hoping that we wait for a moment, so I guess it is alright that we enter.”

Ha? I doubted the words that I heard from my side, but just like that, he dragged the assailants and entered.

“As expected of Lionel-sama nya. Master, let's follow nya.”

Similarly, Cathy entered without hesitation. Waiting all on my one at the gate would be scary after all, so I chased after the 2 of them but it's inevitable that I felt anxious at that moment.

“Isn't this trespassing?”

I gingerly asked.

“Ha? There wouldn't be any problems even if you enter. Speaking of S-rank healers, isn't Luciel-dono the only 1 in the world?”

“Yeah. It is true that I am the only 1 but what has that got to do with this?”

“Normally if the national guest suffers an attack, it will become an international affair and countries would make their move. We are offering to resolve it without making it into a serious problem. Isn't that a fine proposal for the opposite party? Hahaha.”

I will say it any number of times. Who the hell are you? Why did such a dependable person become a slave?

Although I still did not know the answer to that question, I chased after his back as he steadily advanced.

Cathy was just being Cathy, maybe she was accustomed to these kinds of situations, she was humming carefreely.

Shaza and his group exited the mansion just as we reached the front of the building. They were shocked stiff because they saw us right when they exited the building. Lionel spoke out.

“My master is the sole S-rank healer in this world, Luciel, but we were attacked in the city by these assailants when we were shopping. As a country how will you consider this and how will you apologize and compensate us for this. I will have you tell us now!”

Shaza stiffened and became as meek as a lamb against the overwhelming air of dominance and the people beside Shaza hid their faces.

Looking at that scene, within my heart I was questioning, is this person the main character-type in stories?

I thought carefreely.

Chapter 59

Increased forces and Dolan's motivation

Nobody dared to speak up under Lionel's intimidating voice.

All of the 7 representatives including Shaza, and 3 soldiers.

"It's fine that you all remain silent, but the ones who will face troubles will be you guys, right? Please tell us how you intend to apologize, to dispose of these ruffians and to compensate us?"

This time, Lionel changed his tone, trimming down on the intimidation and spoke in a placid voice.

Then, Shaza finally began apologizing.

"I, I am truly sorry for this. I couldn't imagine that healer-sama would get attacked on the very day he arrives. Luciel-sama, the country will atone by sentencing these ruffians to death, as for compensation ... I would like to have something to think of one if it is fine with you?"

Shaza was glancing over at me and Lionel also looked over, so I guess he left it up to me to decide.

"Is that so. I was surprised by the attacks so I originally intended to urgently return to my home country to report ..."

I placed my hand on my chin.

I knew that Shaza would get anxious, but seeing that Sheila-chan's father's expression looked like he was going to weep, I found out that this was not the intention of the whole group.

Thus, I made my decision.

"Okay. Firstly, instead of the death penalty for them, I would like to have their rank lowered to slaves as criminal slaves. Next, in addition to having their expenses fully borne by you and having them work as a labour force for the Healer's Guild, I would

like you to accurately circulate this matter. Next, there are many shops that refuse to sell to us so please make it such that we can buy from every shop. Needless to say, we will still pay for the items. Finally, for the sake of maintaining public security, please allow us to develop the region around the Healer's Guild. That will be all for my request for this time. I will look forward to the compensations."

Not only did I not know if they would really be subjected to capital punishment, I could also avoid spreading my forces comprising of my subordinates and Lionel and gang thin if I increase my available force, so this was preferable.

Moreover, if the number of shops we can purchase from increases, not only do I prevent backlash from inhabitants that cannot buy goods from the shops, I might even find good bargains from the shops that I couldn't buy from before.

If we are allowed to develop the surroundings then there would be no problems if we expand the guild.

I chose my demands according to these train of thoughts.

Lionel looked a bit dissatisfied but it's not like we are intending to go to war with Ienith, and we would not get blamed as long as they circulate the matter accurately.

Nobody approached Shaza. I felt that he was angered by my demands but since there were no difficult contents within my requests he had no choice but to acknowledge them.

"... I apologize for what happened this time. I will accept all the conditions."

Shaza said that without lifting his head. He must have been making a sour face.

"This time, Luciel-sama has shown mercy but do not assume that he will do so the next time as well. Also, I hope that somebody from your group will accompany us to the slave dealer now."

Lionel firmly punctuated on the points that needed punctuation.

Then, Shaza spoke.

"... By the way, you weren't there when you all arrived at Ienith. Who are you?"

"Me? I am Luciel-sama's retainer. Kakaka."

Lionel's loud laughter resonated throughout the neighbourhood.

The individual who accompanied us to the slave dealer was the nostalgic Guralgasan, the wolf beastman who stabbed my stomach in the Holy City.

When we could no longer see the soldiers that exited the gate of the mansion, he began muttering words of apology quietly like it was to himself while maintaining the posture of moving forward.

“Deviant Saint-sama. Even though you went through such pains to travel here, I am terribly sorry that things became this way.”

Of course, I guessed the circumstances from his appearance so I also talked in a low voice.

“Had the situation changed the past 3 years?”

He began describing as he slowly walked.

The contents were situations that commonly happens.

The representative at that time, Mr. Olga, retired along with the expiration of his term of office 3 months after returning from the Holy City.

The next representative was from the dragon race who had high natural recovery ability so they did not understand the appeal for healers.

It seems like they called for the preferential treatment of Herbalist Guilds that can treat diseases instead of healers.

The following year, the readjustments were carried out. His voice sank deeper as he conveyed that the region where the Healer’s Guild was located became the slums.

And then, the term of office ended and the representatives changed. They were inferior to the dragon race, but the tiger beastmen, with high combat power and natural recovery abilities, became representatives for the country with Shaza as their representative.

Up until a year ago there hasn’t been any allure for the Healer’s Guild, but recently at a distant location from Ienith, an inactive labyrinth reactivated and I heard that there is an overflow of monsters.

For that reason, the Adventurer’s Guild and the country’s army began suppressing the monsters.

Although the Herbalist potions were of high quality, the recovery doesn't make it in time and if the poison or paralysis effects are just slightly different, a separate drug is needed so they faced difficulties in capturing the labyrinth.

Listening to his explanations ... Don't I still have 40 more years to go? I had an ominous feeling in my mind as we arrived at the slave dealership. *(TL: Luciel is referring to his oath with the Holy Dragon to release the seal of trapped dragons.)*

"Isn't this the place that refused us entry citing that they don't allow first-time customers when we first came here?"

"It's fine. It is not that they refused you all because they were instructed to do so, they only did so because they do not want to sell their slaves to weird customers."

Upon knocking on the door, an elderly wolf beastman stuck his face out.

"Old man, long time no see."

"Oh, it's Guralga ... why are you intruding with such large numbers?"

Needless to say, the shopkeeper remembered us who came here before, after one glance he immediately faced Guralga-san and asked.

"Yeah. This person here is the Deviant Saint-sama who saved our lives when we went to the Holy City. These fellows tied up by a rope are stupid individuals who attacked Deviant Saint-sama, instead of the death penalty, he decided to convert them into slaves and we wish to trouble you for that."

"Ho ... Deviant Saint-sama huh, how do you intend to use them after turning them into slaves?"

I felt like his eyes could see through lies so I honestly spoke.

"The command would be to not harm me and the people involved with the Healer's Guild and healer clinic, and to not damage the assets and horses of the Healer's Guild. They will be treated as labourers and act as guards for the Healer's Guild and healers. As for employment conditions they will be able to take meals and sleep as usual. It will be something like that?"

" ... (What a seriously weird guy) Very well. Enter."

The slave seals for criminal slaves were affixed onto the 13 ruffians.

“That was the last of them.”

“Old man, Ienith will take care of the bill so please claim for it later.”

” ... Okay. However, does Deviant Saint-sama not intend to purchase slaves from this shop?”

“Yeah. I would want to purchase them if I looked at them but the Healer’s Guild does not have enough rooms. After rebuilding, I will consider buying from this shop.”

“Uhuh~ I will wait without getting my hopes up.”

Looks like the elderly wolf beastman Guralga-san calls old man is called Reruga-san. It seems like Guralga-san was pleased with me after we left the shop so that was good. He left for the mansion after speaking.

“Slaves, you will be going to the Healer’s Guild after this so I suggest you obey the commands. Your treatment can become better, or it can become worst too. Well then, I’ll be going back.”

We walked with Cathy at the foremost, with me behind her and the slaves sandwiched between me and Lionel at the end. However, the slaves obediently walked from beginning to the end due to the pressure from Lionel.

When we returned to the Healer’s Guild, there were 2 Priest Knights standing at the entrance.

“Thank you for your hard work. Were there any anomalies?”

“No. Many made gestures glancing at us but nobody approached us.”

“Over the course of events we obtained these 13 criminal slaves, so I plan to have them stand guard at night from today on.”

“I’m glad to hear that.”

The 2 Priest Knights were elated. That’s because night watch is tough right.

“Sorry but please stand guard for a bit longer.”

“”Yes!””

We entered the guild in succession and Dolan came over to me.

“Ooh Luciel-dono, that took you long. For the time being, I excavated horizontally slightly in the underground. I forgot to ask you to purchase magic stones to affix the earth but don’t worry the ground is firm so it will not collapse immediately. Also, what about the stuff I requested for?”

“Yeah. I have them in the magic bag. I obtained them from underground, but are these fine as magic stones?”

He nodded when I showed him the magic stones dropped in the Labyrinth of Tribulations.

“If they are Dark attribute magic stones we can use them as long as we soak them in Holy water to purify them but do you have Holy water?”

“Purification? Please give me a moment.”

Upon applying purification magic, the magic stone’s colour turned into pale blue.

“Ooh, anything is possible for you huh. If it’s like this then I can use it immediately.”

He delightedly took the magic stone from me.

“I see.”

I looked back and gave my instructions.

“Lionel and Cathy, thank you for the escort. Please go underground and take out the luggage. After that, you can take a break while monitoring the slaves. For the slaves, give your thanks to Dolan for making your beds and give him a hand.”

I announced and proceeded underground. As I saw that the underground was really wider, I placed the purchased items like the wood down, and lastly cast purification magic on a hundred magic stones like the previous one and left them with Dolan.

“I’ll leave the rest up to you. I’ll give you a call when food is ready. Please work hard until then.”

“Ooh leave it to me.”

Dolan was rotting without his arms.

The man who once again bestowed upon him arms asked of a favour from him.

Dolan had never thought that he would be relied upon once again to manufacture things.

What was requested of him was the expansion of the Healer's Guild. Everything was left up to his discretion.

Dolan's profession is blacksmith, but being relied upon once again filled Dolan with motivation.

At this point in time, Luciel did not know that the expansion that he imagined, had instead become remodeling? no, magic-remodeling.

Chapter 60

The Healer's Guild underground facilities

I thought that tidying up the rooms after taking my meal would be troublesome so I first went to place the beds in each room.

Since the rooms in the 2nd floor were 10 tatami mat in size, even if we place 2 beds in, it is just a space for sleeping so it can be said that it is wide enough.

As my subordinates conveyed their thanks to me, I headed to the kitchen.

Naria and, for some reason, Paula were in the kitchen. Even though I had just applied purification magic to the kitchen a while ago, I was now making an effort to sanitize every corner with purification magic.

Magic tools associated with cooking were installed everywhere in the kitchen.

I requested for this to be done when I went out to shop because I intended to cook after that, but there was something bothering me since a while ago.

“Paula, what are you doing since a while ago?”

Since just now, Paula was touching the magic tools, using them, and now she was picking them up and looking underneath them.

“I am interested in magic tools. When I was in grandpa's workshop I often made them.”

Can magic tools be manufactured? I took out a mountain pile of magic stones from my magic bag and applied purification magic on them.

“I see. However, I plan to cook now, so you would be a hindrance if you stay here. Dolan is currently down below, so I will pass these to you if you swear that you won't do anything dangerous.”

Paula nodded at high speed, she looked delighted as she hugged the magic stones and descended underground.

“Well then ... Naria, I’m going to make dinner now, but before that, does Lionel eat a considerable amount?”

Naria showed that she was considering for a bit before she answered.

“Hmm. I think he is able to eat more than a normal person.”

As expected ... I thought as I decided on the menu.

“Let’s go with curry and rice with a warm salad. For now, let’s make double of the number of members we have. Naria, wash the vegetables with Sparkling-kun, strip the vegetables with Slippery-kun on peeling mode, before changing it to chopping mode and putting them through. I’ll demonstrate once.”

After cleaning them with Sparkling-kun, I peeled them by putting them through Slippery-kun.

“Oh right. Place the skin into Dry Fertilizer-kun here which will convert them into fertilizer. Start it only after all the skin are placed in.”

“Erm? Why are you making this fertilizer?”

“I plan to have farming done someday. At that time, if we thinly spread this fertilizer on the earth and plow it, the soil’s fertility will surely recover slightly. It’s a trivial dream.”

I smiled while answering Naria, as I extracted multiple pots, vegetables, spices and meat from my magic bag, and began prepping them.

I collected water from the water filter into the pot and placed the meat in after the water was boiling on the magic stove.

Magical beast meat has a lot of scum and the smell of blood is strong so using them without prepping would make the dish taste bloody. When I was taught by Grulgasan and Granz-san, I was advised that only this process must absolutely not be skipped.

After about 20 minutes, the meat had boiled. I took them out and slice them with a fine kitchen knife before rubbing herbs on.

In the meantime, the vegetables were simmering in the pot. I adjusted the spices for the curry, removed the scum from the vegetables, before adding in the meat and spices, and continued to simmer them using low heat.

I repeated this 5 times. It was fine to keep any of the leftovers in the magic bag anyway. I didn't have any problems with making too much.

All that's left was to prepare the bread and rice.

"Naria, first of all, please call the Priest Knights and healers on the 2nd floor down."

"Yes."

After they had their meals, I, the 2 Priest Knights outside as well as the purchased slaves Lionel and group had our meals first.

The criminal slaves were shown that scene and were forbidden from speaking.

And then, we finished our meal.

"I have also prepared the share for you all. Today's final order is to properly guard the exterior after your meal. The duration will be until tomorrow morning. If you accomplish that then you will get your breakfast. After your breakfast, 8 hours of sleep and break time will be given. As a general rule, other than during guard duty, you are forbidden from leaving the Healer's Guild. Conducts such as discarding written reports detrimental to the Healer's Guild or recent reports of yourself is forbidden. Once you all are accustomed to guard duty, I will assign your duties into shifts. If that happens, I believe that the task will be easier compared to now. As long as you all are sincere, I promise that the treatment regarding meals and room will remain the same as now. However, if you betray me I will have you drink this so keep that in mind."

When I took Object X out everyone began trembling? Eh? Is this a hated object to that extent for beastmen? I wondered about that as I gave the permission to eat. Maybe because it was to their liking, everybody finished their food.

"Lionel and Cathy, I ask that you monitor them in shifts. Eventually, I plan to have the Priest Knights monitor them as well, but due to the long journey, I wish to let them rest for today at least."

"We are slaves so there is no need to care for us to that extent."

"That's right nya. Leave it to me nya."

"Thank you."

The 2 of them have taken the same oath as to not betray us similar to the criminal slaves, but if possible, I wish to have them trust me, and let me, in turn, trust them ... I wish to build such a relationship.

In the end, there was 10 person's share of curry left over so I stuffed it into the magic bag.

Thereafter I began preparing for tomorrow's breakfast. I permitted Naria to prepare tomorrow's dinner if she wants to.

After I finished my preparations for tomorrow's breakfast, I returned to my own room first.

"I have less time for myself than I had imagined."

As I muttered the obvious, I closed my eyes and prayed using the magic communication bead to contact the Pope. Upon doing so, a voice echoed in my head.

《This is Fluna. Have Luciel arrived at Ienith safely?》

It was the Pope's voice. After telling her that I have reached the Healer's Guild in Ienith safely and about the events that happened today in minute detail, I told her about the countermeasures I have planned for the future and the direction I wish to take for the Healer's Guild. After I obliged to contact her tomorrow as well, I cut the communication.

After that, I did some magical power training before going to bed.

Evidently, I had also accumulated fatigue from the journey as I immediately wandered into the dream world.

The next day, I woke up as normal ... no, a huge 『DON』 noise just before woke me up from slumber.

"An attack?!"

I quickly transformed into my full equipment and left my room.

Similarly, my subordinates came out of their respective rooms.

“I have no idea what’s going on so all members temporarily gather here!”

I immediately deployed a 「Area Barrier」 and gave out instructions.

“The healers will standby at the 1st floor reception area. Priest Knights, please confirm the situation outside before joining up with Lionel and the slaves, verify their condition and return to me to report! If combat breaks out, we will fight back by barricading ourselves in the Healer’s Guild. Everyone descend!”

『Yes!』

Even though they had just woken up, everyone moved at a brisk pace.

“If Dolan’s around, can we escape from the underground?”

I asked as I descended down the stairs and headed to the underground floor.

What awaited me at the underground was an amazing sight.

“Ah, Luciel-dono, were we too noisy?”

Yes, the person who asked that in a carefree manner was Dolan.

His voice came from a considerable depth underneath but his words did not enter my head.

I surveyed the expanded underground 1st floor as I approached the center of the opened up area. That was when I grasped the entirety of the underground.

Yesterday, there was without a doubt only 3 rooms.

After returning from shopping, the area was widened by about 6 times, until the area was on par with the 1st floor.

And now, for some reason, there were a magic elevator and stairs installed in the center of the floor, with an increase of at least 4 more floors below.

“Oi~ Luciel-dono? For the time being I have completed the construction until the underground 5th floor. I constructed the underground 5th floor with the image of having it as a prison for misconduct. Next, for the underground 4th floor, I heard that Luciel-dono wanted a training ground to train with Lionel-dono so I made a training ground. There was a need to manufacture weapons for the guards so I made a smithy

and magic tool workshop on the underground 3rd floor. I transferred the slave rooms to the underground 2nd floor, extended the height of the underground 1st floor and tried making it such that the horses can come down here from the stables outside to exercise. I also heard from Naria that you wanted to cultivate a field so I tried to combine a field into the floor as well. The magic stones were all used up for this, so the adjustments are still to come.”

Dolan explained to me while looking like he was feeling refreshed. Behind him, Paula was sleeping with a pleased look on her face.

I worked my brain desperately.

... It wasn't an attack.

That's good.

Eh? Didn't I work out the details to perform the expansions little-by-little yesterday? Did I forget to tell Dolan? No, that doesn't matter anymore ... Are dwarves supposed to be so amazing? I'll voice my questions first.

” ... The noise this morning was?”

“That was the sound from when the magic elevator slammed to a stop because Paula accidentally miscalculated the movement range of the elevator. As you can see, after completing the fixes she went to sleep.”

Could Paula construct magic elevators? That's shocking news! Even though it was a perfect scene with the grandfather smiling while looking at Paula, I had to ask what I had in mind.

“Paula can construct magic elevators?”

“Amazing right! She's been swinging the hammer since young but she's only focused on tampering with magic tools and she can now synthesize magic stones!”

Ah, he had begun boasting about his granddaughter. However, Paula is also amazing ...

“By the way, can all dwarves accomplish such feats?”

“There’s no way that can be true. Only brother Grand and I can accomplish such a feat like this.”

Brother Grand?

“Is that Brother Grand your brother?”

“No, he’s my senior schoolmate.”

I see. So he is his junior ...

“The legendary master craftsman blacksmith Grand-san?”

“Ooo! You know about brother?”

I had no idea how was I going to caution him when he was looking so delighted, so I decided to just say a word.

“Firstly, thank you for your hard work in expanding the place. However, we can’t manage anything more than this so please do not expand anymore.”

“Don’t worry. All that’s left to do is some minor modifications.”

After that, the Priest Knights came over to report that there weren’t any anomalies outside, but it goes without saying that they were all shocked stiff like me.

After carrying Paula to let her sleep in her room, Dolan explained to us each floor in order.

I used the magic elevator after such a long time ... or not. It still looks dangerous after all. We descended down the stairs to the underground 5th floor.

“As explained earlier, these are the jails to lock up prisoners. Well, I made it just in case, I think we can use it as a storage as well.”

In spite of him saying that, the iron bars were securely made. Even when I pushed and pulled them they did not budge so they were very sturdy.

“Even so, isn’t 10 rooms a bit too much?”

“I have a feeling that some big shot will come who we won’t be able to convert into a slave.”

“Please don’t say such ominous things.”

“Okay.”

He might not be wrong altogether. We climbed the stairs under the atmosphere created by Dolan.

“For the training ground walls here at the underground 4th floor, unless it is of substantial force, even if magic hits the wall, there would not be any scratches on it. Paula and I collaborated to make this.”

The space was about 40 to 50 square meters. It was smaller than the one at the Adventurer’s Guild, but for training it was wide enough.”

“It’s true that I said that I wanted him to train me, but ...”

I realized that he thought that I was a combat maniac equivalent to Broad-shisho as we proceeded to the underground 3rd floor.

“I had thought of asking for permission for these. But ...”

Dolan’s voice became softer. But that’s to be expected, as there were 2 full-fledged workshops.

There were even signs hung up that said [Dolan’s Arms Workshop] and [Paula’s Magic Tools Workshop]. It was clearly made with more care compared to the other floors.

“Well then, to the underground 2nd floor.”

“Luciel-dono! Please wait a moment.”

I was dragged into his workshop. After I handed over the equipment from the criminal slaves that they no longer needed and Grand-dono’s Holy silver sword, as they seemed like they could be broken down, together with purified magic stones, Dolan’s tension burst through the roof.

“Also, magic stones for Paula as well please! To create is our purpose in life!”

He stressed that point so I placed down the purified magic stones. Even though there weren't many magic stones remaining, there wasn't any use holding on to them, so I took out all the magic stones within my magic bag.

"I no longer have any more magic stones. Please use them for the Healer's Guild's sake first."

"Luciel-dono, I give you my thanks."

I was finally liberated after that. Temperature control functions were installed into the slave rooms in the underground 2nd floor, so I decided to have them installed in our rooms on the 2nd floor as well.

We finally arrived at the underground first floor where he created an environment for the horses to gallop but I told him to make some minor improvements.

While ensuring the safety of Fornoir and the others, Yanbus told me about a method to prevent them from accumulating stress, so I had Dolan create that environment.

"Understood."

Dolan was brimming with motivation but I warned him that staying up all night is bad for the body so I instructed him to get proper sleep after taking his meal.

"It would be bad if people began to think that this is the underground facility of a regular Healer's Guild."

I muttered as I went straight to the kitchen after remembering that I had to prepare breakfast.

Author's Note:

Thank you very much for reading.

For the time being, the framework for the Healer's Guild's underground is complete.

I will think of what to fill this place with eventually. (^ω^)*

Chapter 61

Ienith's Adventurer's Guild

After breakfast, the only person who wasn't shocked by the underground transformation, Lionel, visited me in the guildmaster's room to ask if he could have Dolan manufacture weapons for him.

"Before talking about the manufacture of weapons, why did you ask for the training ground on your own accord? Even though it is only about half the size of the one in the Adventurer's Guild, considering that magic circles were carved into the walls, isn't it strange that you did not report to me first?"

I didn't yell. That's because yelling would use up my stamina.

Especially since I would be left with the worst result if I yelled at someone more senior than me.

There's also the danger of his trust and faith in me becoming zero.

That's why it would be more effective to ask about the mistakes when angered, solving them one at a time.

Of course, in cases where it doesn't get through no matter how many times it is said, the level of anger will gradually rise, but this was the first time so I talked calmly.

"It is as you have said. I have overstepped my boundaries."

Lionel admitted to his mistake and lowered his head. Blaming him any further would only be for my self-satisfaction so I stopped there.

"Hereafter, please exercise more caution. Certainly, you may think that I am unreliable because I am young but I will give it some serious thought if you propose it. And so, do you have anything to report regarding the night security?"

My senpai told me that it is counterproductive to assign a penalty on a first offense because it would cause them shrink away. That's why I changed the topic and asked for the report.

“I do. There were zero attacks but I did feel their presence. I believe they retreated due to the large number of guards on duty. The criminal slaves seem like they would be an asset if we train them and they did not raise any dissatisfaction with regards to their treatment. Also ... apparently they were not sent by Shaza and gang, but were instead interference sent from the Herbalist Guild.”

Now that he mentioned it, I didn't gather information from the assailants ... I've been way too absentminded.

“Thank you, Lionel. I forgot to have a talk with them. ... I've been thinking about it since yesterday but, who are you exactly?”

I finally asked.

“Fu~ ... I was only in a slightly high up position in a certain country. I am now a slave, and I have set my heart to be Luciel-dono's retainer.”

From the looks of his eyes, those were his genuine intentions. It certainly seemed like he would not speak any further. I gave up on knowing his true identity this time.

“Ha~. Very well. Please tell me when you judge that it is fine to do so. Regarding the manufacture of equipment, it involves the raw materials as well so discuss it with Dolan. Well, it is impossible to have it done immediately, so you can just hold on to my Shisho's sword for now. I leave the defense of the Healer's Guild to Lionel together with the slaves. In addition to the task of escorting me when I go out.”

“Yes! Certainly.”

He placed his hand on his chest and made a bow, before turning his heel and walking out of the room.

I took out a large stack of parchment and summarized all the things that I had to do.

- Rebuilding the Healer's Guild
- Maintaining the public order in the Healer's Guild
- Accepting patients and establishing the healers clinic
- Food

- The issue with the Herbalist Guild
- Investigation of Ienith including Shaza

“To turn to the Adventurer’s Guild when I’m troubled huh ... I’ll try sending Shisho a letter as well. I have a method to increase the value of my name in one go, but I absolutely do not want to use it.”

In the morning, I wrote the letter for Shisho and made the signboard for the Healer’s Guild together with my healer subordinates.

Lionel had woken up by the time I finished making lunch, so we all ate together.

In the afternoon, I left the criminal slaves to Jordo-san. Similar to yesterday, I headed to the Adventurer’s Guild with Lionel and Cathy, with the addition of the Priest Knight Piazza.

“I plan to visit the Adventurer’s Guild to perform a demonstration. My healing magic does not appear to be typical and they would not intentionally come to the Healer’s Guild as long as they do not know about the effects.”

“That’s a good train of thought nya.”

“If we can separate ourselves from the Herbalist Guild’s area of expertise then there wouldn’t be any disputes so I think that it is a good idea as well.”

” ... I will escort you regardless of how you advance.”

“I will first have them know about healers. Next, we will investigate the Herbalist Guild and shop for goods on our way back.”

Each of the 3 of them gave their replies and we headed to the Adventurer’s Guild.

The adventurers in Ienith’s Adventurer’s Guild were, unlike the one in the Holy City and in Meratoni, predominantly made up of races other than humans.

“As expected, the layout of the guild are all the same. Well then, I’m heading to the counter so follow me.”

I walked towards the counter after saying that. No matter how you look at me, I’m no different from adventurers.

“Nice to meet you. I am the person in charge of the Healer’s Guild, S-rank healer and adventurer Luciel. Is it possible for me to meet the guildmaster?”

I presented my healer card and adventurer card to the receptionist. The receptionist was a cat beastwoman, but she differed from Cathy.

“Luciel-sama right? ... I will convey the message to the guildmaster so please wait for a moment.”

She left her post after saying that and performing a bow.

” ... Cathy, why do you end your sentences with nya or nyan?”

I asked a silly question and Cathy replied with a laugh.

“I was told that this way is cuter nya.”

” ... I see.”

The line of sight was gathering on us but, especially since I wasn’t alone, I did not feel anything close to bloodthirst.

“The guildmaster would like to meet you, this way please.”

The returning receptionist informed us and we followed her to the guildmaster’s room.

“So the guildmaster here has a proper guildmaster room.”

When I said that while walking, she was clearly shaken.

“It doesn’t really matter, but if I am lied to I may dump this Object X onto receptionist-san. About 10 barrels worth...”

When I said that while laughing, she stopped on the staircase landing.

” ... We are now heading to the guildmaster’s room but the person you are meeting is the vice-guildmaster Jias-sama.”

I’ve obtained new common knowledge that Object X can be used as a threatening tool for beastmen as I questioned further.

“What is the whereabouts of the guildmaster and what is the reason the vice-guildmaster wants to meet me?”

“I do not know the whereabouts of the guildmaster. As well as the reason why he wants to meet you ...”

She shook her head. When I glanced at Lionel, he shook his head as well so it doesn't seem like she was lying.

“I understand. I will not dump it on you so don't worry.”

She looked extremely relieved and once again began ascending the steps.

After knocking and obtaining permission to enter, receptionist-san opened the door and we entered the guildmaster's room.

The ones there was the first dragon race I've seen and Shaza.

Shaza stiffened when he saw Lionel but for some reason, the dragon individual stiffened when he saw me.

“Nice to meet you. I am the person in charge of the Healer's Guild, S-rank healer and adventurer Luciel. Guildmaster, thank you for meeting me. Shaza as well, we've met yesterday.”

I called out while smiling amicably.

“I, I am not the guildmaster. I am the vice-guildmaster Jias. It is an honor to meet you.”

He immediately stood up from his chair and bowed. His voice sounded nervous.

It looked like Shaza was also surprised at the vice-guildmaster's actions.

“I see. And so Jias-sama, where is the guildmaster?”

“Yes. He is currently at the activated labyrinth. I believe he is currently fighting.”

“No matter how strong the guildmaster is, isn't it weird that he took action personally?”

“Yes. But if brother doesn't go, capturing would not be possible ...”

So the top brass for the guild here was a duo of dragon brothers.

“I see. This time we, the Healer's Guild, wanted to perform a demonstration for the Adventurer's Guild, but this is really regrettable.”

“Demonstration?”

“Even though the existence of healing magic is known in Ienith, I believe many do not know the actual effects of it. That is why we intend to demonstrate healing magic once, to inform people about the healing magic at the Healer’s Guild.”

” ... And what would you like to have the Adventurer’s Guild do?”

“Please gather the injured to the training ground below. We will let them experience the treatment by the Healer’s Guild for free. Ah, this is the original price list.”

I handed a booklet with the guidelines and terms to Jias-dono.

“As you already know, the healing magic by healers do not treat diseases. Even so, I wish to let the adventurers who make a living by fighting as well as this country of Ienith know the reason for having a Healer’s Guild.”

After listening to my talk, Jias-dono was staring at the price column in the guidelines.

I’ve already said what I wanted to say. Saying any more would have an opposite effect so I waited for his reply.

Shaza simply couldn’t speak under Lionel’s gaze. No, was it because he wanted to verify Jias-dono’s true intentions but he don’t know if he should ask or not?

“Okay. ... Would tomorrow at this time be fine?”

“Yeah. Thank you. I’ve been thinking of decreasing the mortality rate of adventurers as much as possible so it benefits me to have it so soon.”

“By the way, can anybody use this magic that can cure petrification and neurotoxin?”

“No, even for healers only a handful can perform it. Among us, nobody else other than me is capable of using it. But there are multiple healers that are likely to be able to use it soon.”

That’s right. I have had Jordo-san and others perform magic as much as possible. That’s why it wouldn’t be strange that their Holy attribute magic levels up.

” ... Well then, I will await your arrival tomorrow at the underground training field.”

“Thank you very much.”

I exchanged handshakes with Jias-dono.

And then, right before exiting the guildmaster's room, Lionel spoke.

“Shaza-dono, the mastermind for yesterday's incident was the Herbalist Guild. I'll report it just in case.”

We left the guildmaster's room without waiting for a reply.

Within my heart, I was wondering why was Jias-dono that friendly? My heart was caught up in that as we left the guild and headed out to shop for goods.

On the other hand, around the same time in the guildmaster's room, Shaza was asking Jias about what that was all about.

“Jias-dono wasn't that different from what we discussed! Why the heck did you act that way to that Healer's Guild youngster?! ...”

Shaza held his tongue from surprise when Jias's eyes tinged with bloodthirst.

“Shaza, you called that person a mere brat? Are you thinking of showing disrespect to our humanized dragon race, we, who worships the dragon race-sama and possess the divine protection of the dragon race!”

Jias was infuriated.

To the humanized dragon race, the divine protection of the dragon race was equivalent to one from the Chief God Kuraiya, no, they strongly believed that it was above that.

For the humanized dragon race who holds the divine protection from the dragons, they can sense for example what kind of race the other person is.

Since birth, of all the people Jias seen with the 「One who possess divine protection」 title, Luciel is the 5th.

And he was the first individual apart from humanized dragons that he's seen possessing divine protection.

It was a hand of salvation from the dragon race-sama for us brothers driven to a corner due to the crisis of the labyrinth activation.

That was the cryptic premonition he had.

I had no idea that it was, once again, the manifestation of 「Great Luck」 .

While Shaza was frightened by Jias, he was angered by the Herbalist Guild for taking actions on their own accord.

(Each and every one of them is a hindrance! Look at the situation now.)

The frustration from things not going his way gradually dyed Shaza's heart with hatred.

Chapter 62

Disciple cornered by his Shisho's boasts

After leaving the Adventurer's Guild, we went shopping for some goods before returning to the Healer's Guild, but we were not attacked today.

Either because the magic tools were interesting, or that there was a lot of free time today, the healers cooperated with Naria and to began to prepare dinner.

"We're back. Is everybody making dinner together today?"

I asked laughingly. Jordo-san replied as the representative.

"Yeah. Because currently we don't have anything else to do once we finish our healing magic study group. Nevertheless, this collection of recipes is amazing. Even dishes from my hometown are listed in it."

He laughed joyfully and the other healers similarly swelled with excitement.

Even Naria nodded as well, but Lionel was behind me so I didn't pry any further into his background.

"Then I'll leave tonight's cooking to you all. Also, I would like all the healers to follow me to the Adventurer's Guild tomorrow. Ah, it's not to fight. Just for tomorrow, we'll provide free treatment to inform them about our healer's healing magic. I've already discussed this with the Pope so don't worry."

Visiting the Adventurer's Guild. As soon as I announced that, I saw the color drained from everybody's faces.

Which was why I immediately added in that it was not to fight. They showed relieved expressions and began discussing with each other. But I felt sad after catching a slight glimpse of what they think of me.

"We will depart after tomorrow's lunch. I will have Piazza-san remain in the guild tomorrow to command the criminal slaves. I will be in the underground for a while so please let me know when dinner is ready."

“Certainly, Luciel-dono.”

After Jordo-san performed a pose of salute with his hand on his chest while laughing, the others also laughed and imitated him.

While thinking that it was a good trend that Jordo-san creates such atmospheres, I also saluted while laughing and descended underground.

Cathy said that she had something to discuss with Naria so she remained in the 1st floor. Lionel was the only person next to me.

” ... This is the underground right?”

I muttered. Even Lionel who wasn't surprised this morning was surprised now.

” ... Was, I think it's become 'this was the underground?' ”

The calm and collected Lionel looked like he received a blow to the face. I didn't feel his usual manner that comprehends everything coming from him.

That's to be expected. Who can predict that such a pseudo-space can be built within a couple of hours?

This morning, the underground first floor's magic stones embedded in the high ceiling were adjusted such that the space was as bright as the Labyrinth of Tribulations.

There was also a small field and a walking space that looks like it was meant for Fornoir and the horses to have some simple exercise.

Now in the underground first floor, the ceiling had become a sky that even had the sun. Furthermore, there was even wind blowing.

The field looked soft, like it was tilled by a cultivator, and there even was a fence so that Fornoir and the horses wouldn't enter.

In addition, the walking space meant for Fornoir and the horses became a ranch and Fornoir and the horses were spending their time leisurely within it.

“Is such a thing possible in reality? Rather than that, can this be done by man?”

“It’s thanks to master. My 「Magic Engineer」 level and 「Magic Tool Manufacture」 skill level increased.”

The person who replied to my mutterings was Paula instead of Lionel.

“So you’ve woken up, no that’s not it. Paula, you can create pseudo-spaces?”

“Not yet. Only after increasing another 2 ranks would I be able to use 「Space Expansion」 .”

She shook her head but isn’t this child’s ability broken? Then, Dolan appeared and began boasting about his granddaughter.

“Ooo! You’re back, Luciel-dono, Lionel. The reinforcements for all the floors have been completed. After that, we made adjustments that we are interes ... that are useful to everyone.”

This dwarf totally wanted to say that it was because he was interested in trying it. As I was still in shock, Paula held out her hand towards me.

“Hmm? What is it Paula?”

“Magic stones please.”

” ... ”

” ... ”

” ... ” (Glare)

I glared at Dolan and he averted his gaze.

“I no longer have any? I passed it all to Dolan and told him that I don’t have anymore.”

Upon hearing that, Paula slowly looked like she was going to cry as she said a single word to Dolan.

” ... Grandfather you liar.”

“Guha!”

It had outstanding destructive force towards Dolan’s mental spirit.

“There was no helping it. Luciel-dono hoped for the safety of the Healer’s Guild, so that amount of magic stones was all needed to stretch a barrier around the whole guild. Paula understands that right.”

“Grandfather said that master had a lot of magic stones.”

“That was because ... ”

Halfway through the argument between the 2 of them, I asked Lionel.

“About what level are the 2 of them?”

” ... As Blacksmith and Magic Tool Enchanter, top-notch and close to first-class. Of all that I’ve met, Dolan-san wins one-sidedly. While Paula is still young, that technical capability of hers show considerable ability.”

... Don’t tell me ... I’ll try asking just in case.

“Is Naria as strong as Lionel and Cathy, or has abilities like Dolan and Paula?”

“Naria has no expertise in combat and magic.”

I wonder.

” ... However, she is sensitive to presence and can mask her own presence and magical power, and she can teach etiquette.”

A normal person ... or not? Eh? They are all not normal? Or is it that this is common?

“Luciel-dono, please come with me to obtain magic stones, or please command me to obtain magic stones.”

Dolan implored, looking like he was going to cry. Paula was swelling her cheeks and crossing her arms. It was easy to see that she was angry but ...

“No. In exchange, I will hand you this. Write down anything that you want to make along with drawings. And please discuss with me what you wish to build. I will hold on to the magic stones for the time being.”

“No, no way.”

Dolan drooped his shoulders lifelessly and Paula with her pouted cheeks, changed into a stunned expression.

I will not think that Paula lacks facial expressions.

I thought as I passed parchment, ink and pen to them.

“Please properly write down the effects and capabilities of what you intend to make and submit it to me, together with an explanation. If I adopt the design I will somehow manage the magic stones issue.”

Then, the 2 individuals who were depressed up until just now took the parchment from me and thanked me before immediately descending to the underground 3rd floor.

“Looking at the 2 of them makes me motivated for tomorrow as well ...”

“Leave the escorting to me.”

“Thank you ...”

As I was applying purification magic on Fornoir and the others, I prayed that the demonstration tomorrow at the Adventurer’s Guild is successful.

The dinner that day was tastier than usual.

To be able to bring out such deep flavours with Naria leading them, as expected of my rival ... No, of course I didn’t think of it that way and I decided to ask her to teach me next time.

For night guard duty, Lionel and Cathy maintained the defence by splitting the criminal slaves into 2 groups. I contacted the Pope, did some magic training as usual and went to bed.

After waking up, I stretched and performed magical power manipulation training before heading to the kitchen. As I was placing down the ingredients, Naria called out to me.

“Good morning master.”

“Morning. I’ll be relying on you in the kitchen from today onwards. Because I’ll be doing some training underground.”

“Understood.”

She sent me off with a polite bow. Upon reaching the underground 4th floor ... there was already a visitor.

“Good morning Lionel!”

“I’ve been waiting.”

Lionel grinned. He was equipped with a greatsword in his right hand and a large shield in his left hand.

” ... How did you know that I was going to come train?”

“When people get attached to their habits, they will feel bad when they don’t get to follow their habits.”

“And so?”

“As promised, I will train Luciel-dono.”

He said that while laughing but his real intention was surely different.

” ... If you don’t tell me your real intentions, I’ll just run on my own.”

He shrugged his shoulders and replied.

“I wanted to confirm whether my combat sense had dulled. The other is that I heard you are a healer that can take a beating and can revive a person as long as it is not a fatal injury, so I was feeling envious.”

From who? And where? As I was thinking about that, maybe Lionel read that from my expression, he gave a name.

“Whirlwind Broad ... 20 years ago in the past we once competed in an arena. In the end, we both collapsed and it was a draw. Since then we began exchanging letters and became friends.”

Broad-shisho!? Aren't they exactly birds of the feather! So he is confirmed to be a combat maniac after all?

” ... I am a healer so ... I can really easily die so please go easy on me.”

“There's an important matter today as well. I'll exercise discretion when training.”

“Okay. I'll have a run before we begin.”

I ran under Lionel's watch and did some body-weight training to get ready.

I felt nothing but bad premonitions facing Lionel, but I set up a barrier at full force and went along with the flow.

If I compare Broad-shisho and Lionel, it is skill and power.

Broad-shisho has better sword accuracy, greater number of moves planned in advance and outstanding avoidance capabilities by far.

Lionel has a herculean sword that can break you in 1 hit and an impregnable shield.

The image I have of them in my mind is of a leopard and a bear.

I did not see the revolving lanterns during today's training.

But there was just once when he tore up my left arm together with my shield. It was nostalgic looking at his flustered expression. The way he reacted was similar to Broad-shisho.

However, I strongly prayed that this mock battle doesn't become a daily routine, as I continued calling out in my heart for the 'Breakfast is ready' to come quicker.

Chapter 63

Object X is a Cheat item

After completing a tougher than usual training session, I found that the criminal slaves were gathering at the training ground.

“Ah~ Good work with the night guard duty. Get some proper rest after having your breakfast.”

For some reason, they were surprised by what I had said, but their stomachs were empty so they rode the long-awaited magic elevator and returned to the surface.

We found no problems with it when we checked the operation of the magic elevator yesterday.

When I arrived at the dining hall, I saw that all my subordinates had not touched their food.

“Sorry to keep you all waiting.”

I apologized as I took my seat, saying a prayer to God before starting my meal.

“Luciel-dono, would you also be providing treatment today at the Adventurer’s Guild?”

A subordinate asked.

“Yes. However, I’ll leave the basic treatment to you all. I will examine those that can’t be treated with regular 「High Heal」 such as poison or petrification, but you all are the leading roles in rebuilding the Healer’s Guild in Ienith.”

“Do you mind if we observe when Luciel-dono is giving treatment?”

“Sure. During treatment, I would not be able to commentate on what I’m thinking about or what image I visualise for treatment, but I will answer your questions when we return so please ask questions later.”

While having such conversations, our breakfast ended.

Today’s meal by Naria was tasty too. I wish to entrust the task of cooking to her but she’ll most likely need an assistant.

I placed that thought in the corner of my mind as I drew the layout of the Adventurer’s Guild and the place I will position myself so as to visualise the image better while everyone listened to me seriously.

(To think that they don’t oppose me even though I’m still young, I have to thank the Pope and Granhart-san who selected my subordinates for me.)

“We will definitely make it a success!”

『Yes!』

From then until noon, I secluded myself in the guildmaster’s room, until I heard a knock on the door.

“Yes. Please enter.”

The ones who opened the door and entered were Dolan and Paula. In their hands was a bundle? of parchments bound together.

” By any chance, did the 2 of you not sleep at all?”

The 2 of them with bloodshot eyes didn’t say a word as they placed the bundle of parchments on the desk.

” ... Don’t tell me this is everything you want to make?”

The person who replied was Dolan.

“Half are what we want to make, the other half are what can be sold.”

Paula spoke next.

“They can definitely sell for a lot. That’s why please convert half of that revenue to magic stones.”

It’s going to be incredibly troublesome to read all of these ... I thought and decided to use the magic word.

“I will let you know after I read them later so please have your breakfast and go to sleep.”

However, my magic word was completely buried by a single reply.

“We will eat and sleep here until you read them.”

Paula’s bloodshot eyes had already accumulated a lot of tears.

“Ka~. Luciel-dono, as a man, you can’t make women and children cry!”

“Ha~ ... Dolan your acting is way too poor. And so, which should I began reading from?”

“”Mine” of course!”

Paula glared at Dolan as she pointed at the parchments that she wrote.

“I’ll read them alright, so the 2 of you please relax on that sofa there.”

I finished reading just as the call for lunch came.

“Paula will adopt 2 of the works and keep 4 of them on hold. Dolan will adopt 5 of the works and keep 1 on hold. Also, I want the 2 of you to make these by all means but I do not have the money now. I promise to work my skills such that I would be able to purchase the magic stones sometime soon.”

Dolan and Paula exchanged a high five and had lunch together with me after they had calmed down. It was impressive that both of them could eat while looking so sleepy.

“Okay. Let’s go!”

『Yes!』

The members going to the Adventurer's Guild shouted to psyche themselves up.

『Take care.』

“We'll do our best!”

Those who saw us off prayed for our safety as well as for us to achieve our goal.

Nobody talked during the journey to the Adventurer's Guild that took roughly 10 minutes.

Which was why, at the entrance, I looked at everybody and spoke.

“Let us show the Ienith's citizens how amazing we healers are.”

『Yes!』

The healers all had high tension.

“Capable Priest Knights protecting the healers, demonstrate your skills if anything happens.”

“”Yes!””

“Lionel, Cathy, I entrust my defence to you.”

“Yes!” “Yes nya!”

I opened the door to the Adventurer's Guild.

“So you've arrived.”

Even before heading to the underground 1st floor, there were injured individuals already gathered. And it was not only injuries, the adventurers suffered from abnormal statuses like poison and petrification.

“We’ll go with Plan C. We’ll go to the reception before heading underground. Everyone, please do not stop your feet. I will help those that look like they are going to die.”

I announced loudly before heading to the reception. The fact was that we had decided on a pattern beforehand.

Pattern A which assumes that there would be interference, Pattern B whereby there are no individuals to treat at all and Pattern C where they all have injuries that the Herbalist Guild couldn’t treat. There were others but I’ll omit them.

“As promised yesterday to Jias-dono, I am S-rank healer Luciel, in-charge of the branch in Ienith. Please act as our intermediary.”

“Un, understood.”

As the receptionist ran to notify Jias-dono, I declared.

“This time, the Healer’s Guild will apply healing magic free of charge. As long as everyone obediently wait for their turn, we will definitely treat them. We will decide on the treatment order. We will reject anybody who cannot accept that. In addition, if an attack is mounted or any violence is taken, we will immediately cancel the treatment. We are not as merciful as the Gods. Only, the feeling of wanting to treat, of wanting to provide treatment is real. Thank you.”

『Thank you very much.』

It was really reassuring to have the healers that accompanied me here.

Jias-dono finally came over and I called out to him first.

“Jias-dono, we will apply magic on patients with greater emergencies first. I will treat only those that are seriously ill on the 1st floor. Their conditions might take a turn for the worst but I have to inform you ahead of time that I am not omnipotent like a God.”

“Okay, Luciel-dono. Well then, everyone this way please.”

The healers descended underground, leaving only Lionel and Cathy as my escort.

I immediately moved into action.

A half-petrified young man was nearby.

“Does he suffer from any poison or paralysis? It’s fine even if you don’t know, please explain the situation to me.”

The friend supporting him spoke, sounding like he was going to cry.

“It ... it’s from a trap in the labyrinth, pl ... please save him.”

Lionel stopped the man who looked like he was going to cling on to me. As I began chanting, the man supported his companion instead and began praying.

Firstly, I chanted 「Dispel」. The petrified man emitted light before returning to his original body the next instant.

Following that, I applied 「Middle Heal」 and he looked like he recovered completely, but his face was still pale so I applied 「Recover」. This time, the colour returned to his face.

“With this he will make a full recovery. If he lost any blood ... ha~.”

I applied 「Recover」 on the man that was stopped by Lionel just now.

“It’s great that you worry about your companion, but you yourself were inflicted with weakness by some poison so I advise you take care of your own life as well.”

I treated people who had faint consciousness, petrification or poison, looking like they were going to die.

“It would be quicker if you all lined up you know.”

As I said that while advancing, at the underground, instead of sounds of gratitude, there was a commotion.

“Never mind that, heal me first! Who do you think I am.”

The 2 Priest Knights couldn't stop him. Jias-dono was also desperately trying to soothe him but to no avail.

“If that's the case, we are fine with immediately ceasing treatment!”

I said it in a loud voice such that the man could hear it.

“I have no idea who you are. However this time, the treatment is a demonstration offered by the Healer's Guild. We do not ask for anything in return so you have no right to complain.”

I approached the arena.

“If you are a hindrance, I will formally file a complaint against you through the Adventurer's Guild!”

“Who the heck is this brat.”

“I am the S-rank healer Luciel. The person in charge of the Healer's Guild in Ienith. If you interfere with our treatment, I will hold you responsible for all the adventurers here not getting any treatment from us. If you wish to be treated then obediently wait for your turn. You have 2 choices.”

Lionel was in front of me while Cathy and the adventurers hoping to get treated were behind me.

I thought that it would be fine no matter who the opponent was but the man laughed and commanded.

“So you are S-rank? If that's the case then eat this! Get him!”

At that moment, he tossed some black powder towards me.

“Che.”

The instant after I heard that click of the tongue, Lionel moved and readied his large shield in front of me to defend against the black powder, while Cathy pressed down to cover me but even Lionel and Cathy couldn't deal with the powder that was thrown from multiple directions.

Because of that, I was also hit by the black powder.

“Kukuku, that's magic sealing powder. Struggle as much as possible. Let's go.”

The man made sure that I was covered by it before announcing and escaping.

“I won't let you escape!”

Maybe because Lionel couldn't protect me, he threw his greatsword towards the man that was going to get away.

“Che, it's fine even if you hit me.”

The man said that as his body became thinner, transforming into a log with a tag stuck on it.

(Ninja?)

As that thought crossed my mind, Lionel muttered before yelling out.

“This is Darkness magic, furthermore, it's an illusion ... If that's the case, somebody stop those men!”

Lionel shouted towards a different flight of stairs from the one we descended down from. The guards most likely heard Lionel's voice but the men weaved through the training ground laden with severely ill patients and ran up the stairs.

“To think that we received such an attack ... those who can move go out and look for those guys.”

Upon shouting that, Jias-dono slumped his shoulders looking extremely disappointed.

“I'm sorry Luciel-dono.”

“I truly had not expected that nya~.”

Lionel and Cathy slumped their shoulders as well.

“Oioi are you all not going to treat us?”

“Are healers such people? Help us.”

“I dragged my body over here through the pain okay.”

The adventurers vented their anger on the healers.

It seemed like the healers were hit by the powder as well. It looked like they couldn't use magic.

I slowly walked as I began chanting.

【By the hand of holy healing, by the breath of Mother Earth, I wish for no harm onto my body and myself, return the unclean existence to its original path. Purification】

My body radiated light, leaving no trace of the black powder behind. In addition, I walked towards my subordinates and began chanting.

【By the hand of holy healing, by the breath of Mother Earth, I wish to get rid of all that is hidden in the body, return to your normal state. Recover】

I applied 「Recover」 on all 5 of my members.

The area around where I used magic was wrapped in silence.

“Well then, we've had some problems but those who wish for treatment please obediently wait for your turn. From now on, it is fine to restrain those who wish to kick up a fuss. Right? Jias-dono.”

He had a stunned expression but he immediately recovered himself and announced while nodding.

“I will not forgive any more commotions!”

“Well then, let us continue working hard to treat them!”

I said to my subordinates and began treatment once again.

Object X is a cheat item for me after all.

Even though there was the demerit of not levelling up, the 「Seal Resistance」 helped me this time as well.

I went about healing people as I thought about that.

Chapter 64

Ienith's Adventurer's Guild guildmaster is a muscle-brain

Even without using 「Dispel」, my subordinate healers who successfully used 「Recover」 healed the adventurers suffering from abnormal statuses.

Patients suffering from petrification or were in a mess with collapsed arms and eyes were all treated by me.

After treatment, they erupted with joyous expressions, embracing me or linking their arms with me and spinning me round and round.

But there was 1 thing on my mind. That was that nobody was leaving.

(Normally one would go home, right? Should I warn the others to stay vigilant against something happening again?)

I allowed my subordinates on the verge of magic depletion to rest, while I asked about the symptoms of the patients and healed them one-by-one.

【By the hand of holy healing, by the breath of Mother Earth, I wish to get rid of all that is hidden in the body, return to your normal state. Recover】 ”Fu~ with this, everyone is alright now.”

I surveyed the surrounding area, calling out to make sure that there weren't any more patients around.

“Are there any patients left? Please sound out if there are anybody around you with a pained expression or have not received treatment.”

... It appears that nobody is calling out, so I guess we've completed our task.

“Adventurers, what happened earlier was a mistake by the Adventurer’s Guild and have caused inconvenience to the people from the Healer’s Guild. There were people who verbally abused the healers who gave us treatment for free although it is not originally free right? The ones we should be blaming are those men that perpetrated the incident.”

Under Jias-dono’s words, the beastmen’s expressions showed regret. Jias-dono continued.

“Certainly, they said that the treatment, this time, would be free of charge. However, is it fine this way? No, it is absolutely not. We, are beastman adventurers. We will repay favor with favor!”

The very next instant, the underground training ground shook with the shouts from each and every one of the beastmen.

“Find those men and the mastermind! They should definitely be in this city. We, including myself, will make up for our blunder!”

『Oooo-!』

The beastmen lowered their heads and ran up the stairs.

“Luciel-dono, healers, I am terribly sorry.”

Jias-dono said and lowered his head.

“Please raise your head Jias-dono. Their aim was most likely to cause an interference. If our magic remained sealed and could not provide healing, rumours such as “The healers gave false hope and abandoned many patients.” would circulate. Instead of news of their act of sabotage, our bad reputation will spread and the position of the Healer’s Guild would worsen.”

” ... That’s ... right.”

I asked Jias-dono who looked like he had an idea.

“Are they criminals close to Jias-dono’s Ienith representative, or are they criminals from the Herbalist Guild?”

All of the healers and Priest Knights were shocked. Well, that’s because I didn’t tell them that we are now at ends with the Herbalist Guild.

“I cannot determine where they are from this time. The black powder that was thrown onto you all is touted as “Throw it on monsters to seal their magic.”, and has been sold by the Ienith Herbalist Guild since a long time ago.”

” ... So it’s something that can be obtained easily ... Well, I’ll leave this incident to Jias-dono and the adventurers who are more familiar with Ienith.”

To be honest, since they struck first, we have no choice but to stir up the hornet’s nest. I believe that it is best to leave all the decision-making to others for such things. I also can’t afford to expose my subordinates to any further danger.

” ... To immediately trust me despite my blunder ... too naive ... but, I will definitely track down the root of this incident.”

Jias-dono said so but I wasn’t actually trusting him. I merely thought that it was fine to rely on him.

“We will be returning to the Healer’s Guild now, but please let me know if you find anything.”

“Okay.”

He once again lowered his head and sent us off at the entrance.

“Well then, we’ll be going off.”

As I was saying that, Lionel who was leading in front suddenly stopped at the entrance of the Adventurer’s Guild.

“What’s ...”

The matter. Just as I was about to complete my sentence, adventurers suffering from severe injuries were carried over.

The ones shaken by that was not us but Jias-dono instead.

“Brother?!”

The guildmaster was among the injured so I issued instructions.

“I will be using 「Area High Heal」 so patients please come within 3 meters from me. Everyone else please treat their poison or paralysis after that.”

『Yes!』

Right after I instructed my subordinates, the dragonewt with a discoloured body that was supposed to be asleep stood up before glaring at us and screaming.

“You bastards are healers~! Speak! Just how much do you intend to rip us off!”

With an appearance that was more brutal than Jias-dono, I was seized by those ferocious eyes and rage.

But for some reason, I was totally unafraid. I was shocked by my own heart that felt sadness instead.

“It will be free of charge this time. As an injured person please calm down!!”

I unconsciously yelled with a loud voice, surprising even myself. However, thanks to that the dragonewt calmed down. I confirmed that he entered my range of 「Area High Heal」 and began chanting.

There were many heavily injured individuals including the dragonewt, but it didn't look like there were any problems apart from the abnormal statuses, so I first applied 「Purification」, 「Dispel」 and 「Recover」 in sequence to the dragonewt that had the most severe injuries, resulting in his discoloured body returning to his original state.

As I saw, at the corner of my eye, the dragonewt had a dumbfounded expression as he touched his own body, I helped my subordinates as there were many patients with abnormal statuses. It took us only a few minutes to finish treating the 10 plus individuals.

After I finished treating everybody, I went over to greet the dragonewt and guildmaster that I treated first.

“I am sorry for yelling at you just now. I am Luciel, S-rank healer from Ienith's branch Healer's Guild. Yesterday, I asked Jias-dono to let us conduct treatment today for free to let people know about the healing capabilities of the Healer's Guild and our healers.”

The dragonewt looked at me in a daze, before turning to look at Jias-dono and Jias-dono nodded. And then, for some reason he knelt (seiza) and began speaking with his head bowed down.

“Please forgive me for my rudeness previously.”

He remained in the dogeza posture as he said that and I realized that he planned to continue talking in that pose so I hurriedly asked him to stand.

I have no idea why he suddenly performed a dogeza, but weird rumours will definitely circulate about if he stays like that any longer. Although it may already be too late ...

While my head was hurting thinking about that, I somehow got him to stand up before saying.

“As the Adventurer’s Guild guildmaster, please do not abruptly dogeza at the entrance of the Adventurer’s Guild! I’ll be troubled if weird rumours surface.”

“Ooo! I am terribly sorry ... ” “An apology is enough. Please do not dogeza again.” ” ...
?! I am grateful.”

Because I avoided the development of a loop, he began speaking. But in my mind, (The impression he gives off is way too different from when I first saw him!), I thought as I listened to him speak.

“I am Jasuan, the guildmaster for the Adventurer’s Guild. I had secluded myself in the labyrinth and I had also not thought that I would be able to meet the S-rank healer-sama so ...”

I was curious about the rage-filled eyes just now so I tried asking.

“I’ve mentioned earlier that I wanted to educate people about healers and their abilities, but does Jasuan-dono not have a good impression of healers?”

A shadow fell on his face when he heard that.

” ... Yeah. When I was young, I was denied treatment multiple times and was confronted with exorbitant prices so I don’t have any good impressions. However, few years back S-rank healer Luciel-dono was discussed in the meeting at the Adventurer’s Guild headquarters.”

Broad-shisho was a former adventurer and Jasuan-dono should be an adventurer as well. If that’s the case, then it’s not strange for them to dislike healers after travelling the world? Anyway, who was it? The one who spread rumours about me?

” ... That’s news to me.”

“Is that so? I heard that even though he is a new healer who began living in the Meratoni Guild Headquarters, he doesn’t consider race or gender and uses healing magic the best he can, in addition to saying that he is still in training so he only charges 1 silver coin for it.”

For some reason, it had been altered into a moving tale.

” ... Is there a continuation to that?”

“Yes. In just 2 years, he was transferred to the Saint Schull Church Headquarters and rose to the top in one go as the S-rank healer in less than 2 years, a healer brought up by the Adventurer’s Guild.”

... There was some truth mixed in so it’s hard for me to deny it.

“According to the reports that I heard, your race of dragonewts opposed to inviting the Healer’s Guild right?”

“... Yeah. I am the guildmaster for Ienith’s Adventurer’s Guild so I can’t become the representative for the tribe, but that’s what I heard too. However, I had thought that it was fine like that too.”

Hmm? Past tense?

“What do you mean by ‘had’?”

“I didn’t expect to be able to receive this kind of amazing power without paying any compensations. Not to mention it was for injuries that the Herbalist Guild had given up on.”

Jasuan-dono’s expression changed from that of a smile to rage as he thought about the Herbalist Guild, but I had to correct him there.

“Unfortunately, it is only free for today. This is the guidelines and there’s a price chart within.”

I passed him the same one I gave to Jias-dono the other day from within my magic bag.

” ... These are the charges?”

“Yeah. If Jasuan-dono had to actually pay this time, 「High Heal」 would cost 3 gold coins, 「Purification」 50 silver coins, 「Dispel」 2 gold coins, 「Recover」 1 gold coin, in total it would be 6 gold coins and 50 silver coins. Is it too expensive?”

It was written in the guideline that the price could vary from 1 to 1.5 times the stated value, but I calculated it with the base value.

” ... No, it’s too cheap! High-quality potions cost 5 gold coins and expensive medicine used to treat poison and paralysis cost 1 gold coin, but they do not possess effects as good as these.”

“I’m glad to hear that. Since I struggled considerably to set the prices.”

I did market research repeatedly to decide on the prices.

Not only the adventurers, I also surveyed the healers working in the healer clinics.

In addition, as a trial conducted solely in the Saint Schull Allied Nations, for healers with low skill levels for Holy magic attribute, they can practice their 「Heal」 by charging at half price in addition to meals and lodging provided for them in the Healer’s Guild and Adventurer’s Guild.

I believe it was due to the hard work by the Archbishops.

If the price I decided on was too low, it would spark another dispute. As I was worried about that, Archbishop Munera with his unscrupulous merchant’s face said a few words to me that made me entrust it all to him.

“Do not make enemies in places you do not know about when you haven’t even reached 20! We old timers with few remaining years to live can convince others better, and even if we are blamed for it, it would only be for a short time. Moreover, if we create this, we could leave our names behind for the future generations. Please share some of that honour with us as well.”

At that moment, I apologized with a dogeza in my heart for thinking that he had an unscrupulous merchant’s face.

The ones that should truly be praised for creating all of the prizes in 2 years should be them, but the ones who stood on the podium were the Pope and me.

Their achievements and names were only recorded in the guidelines, but they were delighted with just that.

I made an oath to work harder as a healer for their sakes and am truly glad that I have their support to come to Ienith.

“If that’s the case ... Luciel-dono is also an adventurer right?”

” ... Yeah. That’s right.”

Hmm? I have a bad feeling about this.

“In that case, I wish to submit a nomination request!”

“I am not a B-rank adventurer, so I have no obligation to accept nomination requests.”

I knew it. However, there wouldn’t be any problems even if I turn him down.

“Ku. Then, if possible, I wish to establish a temporary healer clinic outside the labyrinth. Of course, we will bear all of the expenses.”

... No limits at all? But, this was also out of the question.

“That’s impossible. Today, in the midst of healing there was an interference, and the day before yesterday I was attacked in the city as well. Until the Healer’s Guild is safe and operational, I will not leave the Healer’s Guild. Furthermore, I am responsible for the Healer’s Guild.”

” ... I see.”

He gave up. I breathed a sigh of relief.

” ... Then if everything is cleared, I will be able to have you establish the healer clinic?”

Eh? He didn’t give up? Rather than that, isn’t he proceeding in a different direction?

“As I’ve mentioned, I am the person in charge for the Healer’s Guild though?”

“I am also the guildmaster for the Adventurer’s Guild. I swear to give my all to ensure the safety of the Healer’s Guild and the establishment of its status in this city.”

My words did not reach him.

And when I sought help from my subordinates, they all averted their eyes.

Even the Priest Knights too.

Moreover, I felt that the 2 slaves were happy with the proposal made by the guildmaster.

Thus, the Healer’s Guild demonstration ended without problems?, and I was caught in a new problem with a hidden mastermind.

Chapter 65

Healer's Guild assailants

The healer's healing magic demonstration ended with great success.

We've received high evaluations from the Adventurer's Guild guildmaster Jasuando and the vice-guildmaster Jias-dono. They informed us that, in the future, until the healer clinic is established, they will contact the Healer's Guild for anything apart from diseases.

"Even so, I didn't know that you all are so heartless. Especially the Priest Knights Blitz-san and Dotasu-san, please come to my defence okay."

The both of them didn't look apologetic at all. Blitz-san was the first to apologize.

"I'm sorry. Although it was the first time I've seen dragonewts, I thought that they looked friendly so ..."

"I'm sorry too. He was the guildmaster after all, so he wasn't a target that I could counter ..."

The 2 of them blinked multiple times and talked while facing upwards. Hmph~ It doesn't look like it's what they're truly thinking.

"... Is that your true opinion?"

I asked with a grin.

"... Because he was scary."

"... I was moved seeing Luciel-dono bravely stand up to him."

This time, the 2 of them told their real feelings.

"You are my escorts after all so do your jobs properly. Also ... Lionel and Cathy, even if the temporary healer clinic is built I will not bring you 2 along."

The grin they had on their faces since just now changed into an expression of shock.

“Luciel-dono, please do not say such barbarous things.”

“That’s, that’s right nya. I don’t wish to expose master to danger like when I was late to respond today so please bring me along nya~”

The 2 of them were most likely not lying.

“Could you explain everything honestly?”

My intuition was telling me to ask that.

“I have no intention of using dulled combat sense as an excuse for the delay in detecting the assailants. However, my muscle strength has decreased throughout my body so I couldn’t react immediately. That’s why I wish to train again.” (Lionel)

” ... I wish to enter the labyrinth and have an adventure nya. I’ve longed to do so since long ago nya.”

I have no idea how much time has passed since Lionel last walked, but he most likely knows that his upper body and lower body muscle composition differ and it should be true that he wants to train.

If Cathy is Lionel’s subordinate, it wouldn’t surprise me if they were soldiers from some country.

So it might not be a lie altogether.

” ... I don’t know what the future holds, but please work hard such that I can trust the 2 of you.”

“Understood. I will first train the criminal slaves.”

Lionel, please don’t break them?

“I’ll do my best nya.”

I have no idea what Cathy’s going to try her best for, but it’s a good thing that she’s motivated.

And then, I listened to the events from Jordo-san.

“By the way, Jordo-san, those men who threw the black powder did not restrain Jias-dono at all?”

“I don’t know. However, they did announce that they could easily kill the adventurers present. As soon as that man raised his hand, magic appeared on the surrounding men and we were threatened to prioritize healing.”

To be able to take hostages, they were fairly well prepared?

As I thought about that, the conversation changed to leisurely chats as we walked and quickly saw the Healer’s Guild.

This time, the lookouts in front of the Healer’s Guild were criminal slaves.

“Good job, were there any abnormalities?”

The 2 criminal slaves nodded and one raised his voice.

“There was a commotion due to a small fire there, and some men tried to enter the guild using that opportunity, but they have been rendered paralysed and are now in the underground.”

... ? What does he ... mean?!

“Did you hear a sound or anything?”

The 2 of them nodded in tandem and answered.

“There was a rumble.”

” ... Then it’s Dolan and Paula. When you say underground, do you mean the underground 5th floor prison?”

The 2 of them nodded once again.

“Looks like here was targeted as well.”

“Yeah, let’s go to the underground. Well then, I will leave the lookout to the 2 of you.”

The 2 of them showed surprised expressions when they heard that, but now was not the time for this so I entered the guild.

The interior was the same as this morning.

I felt relieved as I gave out instructions.

“Everybody, thank you for your hard work today. Please use the remaining time from now to do whatever you wish, ah, if possible, please help with dinner. Lionel and Cathy, follow me.”

『Yes!』 “Yes nya.”

The 3 of us rode the magic elevator down to the underground 5th floor. There, we saw Priest Knight Piazza-san together with 8 criminal slaves, and 7 men locked in the prison.

“Well done Piazza-san.”

“Yes! Welcome back Luciel-dono. I’ll give my report. Around 2 hours after you all departed for the Adventurer’s Guild, there was a commotion involving a small fire beside the guild. To fight against the fire, several of us exited the guild. That was when these men took advantage and tried to invade the guild.”

It was the same testimony as the 2 slaves above.

“That was when before they could enter, they were paralysed and you found it suspicious so you brought them down here. Does my deduction match?”

“Yes! I brought their personal belongings to Luciel-dono’s dwarf slaves.”

Well, he has no magic stones now and have nothing to do so it should be fine ... but maybe he’ll be angry after a while.

“Thank you for the report. Everyone, please return to your tasks. We will deal with this. Cathy, please call Dolan and Paula.”

“Yes! Let’s go.”

“Nya.”

Looking at them follow behind Piazza-san in succession, I think Piazza-san handles them strictly.

Or is it that I'm too soft? As I thought about that, I had a hunch so I looked at the assailants and sure enough.

“Kukuku. With this, the safety of the Healer's Guild seems to be ensured.” (Lionel)

” ... You look happy.”

“Haha. It's good that you reached your goal. I should quickly begin training again. I will show you that I'll be useful the next time.”

Lionel declared.

The ones that were caught were the subordinates of the man who threw black powder on us.

“And so? Why did you all come to get caught on your own?”

“It was ... U, U ... ku ...”

The man could not articulate.

“Ah, you can't articulate properly. However, I'll leave you guys like that for now. Would it be fine to question them before sending them to the Adventurer's Guild?”

“Usually, it would be normal to question them after they are made into slaves, but there might be some assailants that become slaves on purpose to die by rebelling against you so you need to ascertain their intentions.”

“I see ... you're here.”

Cathy brought Dolan and Paula over.

The 2 of them had a slightly dissatisfied expression.

They most likely have been toying with most of the belongings from these assailants.

I'll begin with praising them first.

"Dolan and Paula, the guild barrier worked splendidly this time. However, how did you set it to identify them as assailants?"

Dolan began talking happily.

"It's amazing right~! Paula installed an electrical shock system to the barrier. And then I adjusted the barrier so that it can be activated successfully."

"I think it's amazing, but how did you get the barrier to ascertain individuals?"

"The target is those who holds strong malice and hatred."

"... Just hypothetically, if they hold strong feelings against an entity apart from the Healer's Guild, would it trigger as well?"

That instant, the talkative Dolan stopped talking.

" ... "

He remained silent so I looked at Paula.

" ... "

And I looked at Dolan again.

" ... " 『Saa』

Dolan diverted his line of sight from me.

" ... " 『Saa』

Paula hid behind Dolan so that she doesn't enter my line of sight.

"... Since the 2 of you did not report such an important matter to me, I will punish you. Development works will be prohibited for a week ... "

"Luciel-dono, we will improve ourselves so please do not say such cruel words."

"Master please don't be so ... mean."

The 2 of them desperately tried to repeal the punishment. It was really obvious to see.

” ... I’ll put it out there, you guys are slaves after all right? It is too late for me to comment on your work tendencies, but I will penalise you if you do not report to me properly in the future. Well then, if you have anything else you’ve forgotten to mention, please say it now.”

“Ah, if placed into the prison, without considerable resistance to magic seal (「Seal Resistance」) one would not be able to use magic, and without 「Weakness Resistance」 , one cannot move well.”

I face-palmed and thought.

(Why didn’t I notice that since this dwarf would never build a normal prison.)

I’ll take a deep breath for now and settle down.

” ... Whenever you’ve made anything, report to me without fail. I trust and am confident in the skills of the 2 of you. But, I cannot trust and be confident in your actions. That’s why, please modify your actions so that I can trust and be confident in you.”

“Nuu, I’m sorry.”

” ... I got carried away.”

“Well then, the 2 of you please work hard to modify the barrier until dinner.”

“Understood.”

Dolan nodded and replied while Paula only nodded. It’s good that they did not lose their motivations? Or is it.

After bidding them off, I cast 「Recover」 on one of the assailants. That man stood up and raised his voice.

“The S-rank healer should have been rendered useless! Why are you fine?!”

Maybe there were fake customers at the Adventurer’s Guild? If that’s the case then was it a friendly who instigated them? Well, it doesn’t really matter now, but I’ll need to request for a report of this later.

“Yeah. My 「Seal Resistance」 is high, so it was absolutely ineffective and the demonstration ended successfully.”

“Che.”

The man who clicked his tongue remained silent.

Most likely he decided that talking anymore would not be a good idea. Well then, should I start with the interrogation? I declared after applying 「Recover」 on all the assailants.

“I will begin the interrogation. It’s fine if you don’t wish to reply. I will just have you drink this.”

『Don』 I took out a barrel and opened the lid, filling the underground 5th floor with the smell of Object X.

“I don’t really enjoy seeing blood, so during interrogation, I will give you Object X instead of water and food. You are free to talk whenever you want to.”

Lionel retreated until the staircase leading to the underground 4th floor.

Should I use this as well when preaching to him later?

“Ah, by the way.”

I poured Object X into a mug and drank it clean.

“Pu~. As you can see I can drink this normally and am not fazed by the smell, so I can accompany you all here. I will send those who testify to the Adventurer’s Guild, but I am fine either way.”

After declaring so, I looked at the colour fade from their faces and predicted the amount of time they would persevere, so I spent the time doing some magical power manipulation.

Lionel somehow managed to remain standing at the stairs.

They felt discomfort from just a little whiff of Object X, but I predict that Lionel and they may be able to bear with the smell, so time passed by.

Chapter 66

Men who assertively follow orders

I have no idea how much time has passed ... or not. The men immediately began making a commotion.

“I don’t have it, I don’t have my mask.”

“My mask and goggles are gone as well.”

“My magic pants is gone as well.”

“My full face helmet is ... ”

... The men most likely had equipment that could block off the smell of Object X.

I won’t tsukkomi one of the comments there ... But I understand that those 2 would not hesitate and go through any means necessary to obtain equipment and magic tools.

These people are the precious victims that made me understand that.

“S-rank ... What happened to my magic bra?”

As I was thinking about that, the first to stand up was a leader-like man who said that ... but, by any chance is he a woman with that appearance? ... I’ll confirm it just in case.

” ... Are you a female?”

“Of course not! That is ... right, I can only calm down with that on!”

It’s fine to emphasize it, but that excuse is unreasonable. Moreover, if he is a guy then there will be no mercy!

“Is that so. I’ve received reports that all your belongings and equipment have been taken by the 2 dwarves that you saw just now. That is why, it have already been examined and modified, so it will never return to how it once was. Please give it up.”

Was the equipment that they mentioned meant to block off smells? Or were they capable of preventing abnormal statuses? However, they now know that the items that they needed are no longer with them and they expressed hopeless expressions.

“It’s fine. If you all don’t talk, I will just make you all into slaves tomorrow and relinquish you to the Adventurer’s Guild after I make you drink undiluted Object X.”

The instant I delivered the final blow, the men raised their voices.

Devil, demon, villain.

However, a few minutes after those were thrown at me, a man talked.

” ... The ones who hired us were the Herbalist Guild and this city’s representative!”

It happened much earlier than I had expected.

I saw Lionel at a long distance away looking amazed as well.

I did say that I wanted them to speak, but I had the man who began talking take an oath.

“If you tell me everything that you know about, I will get rid of the barrel of Object X. I also swear to God that I will not make you drink Object X. However, if you lie to me, I will cast a magic that makes you want to drink Object X. Once you become a slave, Object X would be your meal for some time. Do you pledge the words you will speak from now to God?”

“Che, I swear! If I don’t lie, you won’t make me drink that right?”

“Yeah. At the very least I promise to treat you humanely for your time here.”

The man sighed a breath of relief as he began talking.

“Our job was to sabotage the Healer’s Guild and crush the healer’s healing showcase today. The sabotage of the Healer’s Guild was impossible due to the tight security, but this morning you all went to the Adventurer’s Guild in force so we thought that this was the time, but as you can see, we’re now here.”

There wasn’t any change in the man even after he talked to that extent, so I recovered the Object X. The others also spoke out. *(TL: Apparently it seems like they are held in different cells so he has a barrel in front of each cell.)*

“I’ve said everything that I’ve heard, so please place that somewhere far away.”

“S-rank healer-sama, I’ve also said everything that I know, please keep that away.”

... Do they really hate it that much? Well, it’s fine.

“Alright, 「Purification」 ”

I applied it to the man in the prison who spoke out first. He looked bewildered and spoke.

“There’s no smell? A smell as pungent as that disappeared?”

“Since I promised to treat you all humanely.”

I answered with a smile and the other men began talking as well. Was Object X’s smell really that unreasonable?

“Okay. Well then, you guys share will be placed in front of their prison then.”

I placed the barrels in front of the assault leader-like man before listening to their story.

There wasn’t any among them that lied.

They were initially employed by the Herbalist Guild.

Currently, the criminal slaves working as guards for the Healer's Guild were the underlings of these men, but because the organization itself is small, without the criminal slaves, the executives had no choice but to mobilize this time around.

It seems that yesterday, Shaza appeared at the Herbalist Guild and wildly yelled at the vice-guildmaster for sending assailants at me on their own accord.

And apparently, he told them about the healer's demonstration today at the Adventurer's Guild today and strictly ordered them to sabotage it before going back.

Thus, these men received the request.

When asked why they couldn't kill me, they were told that there was a possibility that I might be wearing poison resistant equipment, that they don't have poisons that cause instantaneous death and that the escorts were too strong which made it impossible to approach me.

For that reason, by using the magic sealing powder such that the healers cannot heal, together with a little instigation and rumours spread based on the traditionally rooted contempt for healers within beastmen, they planned to cause the Healer's Guild's reputation to worsen and crush the operations of the Healer's Guild.

The men told me.

Does Shaza intend to go that far to drive us out of Ienith?

Despite giving him a warning once, he still can't make a decent judgement?

"... Why tell that to the vice-guildmaster? What's the guildmaster doing?"

"The guildmaster is a man who is only interested in compounding, so the operations are all led by the vice-guildmaster."

"I see. I will ask 1 final question, why is Shaza able to dominate the vice to that extent? Even if you say he is a representative, this is still too unnatural."

"... For that, I also have no idea why."

There wasn't any change in the behaviour of the man, so he probably really doesn't know.

“Does anybody here know him?”

But they all shook their heads.

“Okay. I will hand you all to the Adventurer's Guild tomorrow, but I will offer food to you.”

When I handed them the bowl with bread and curry, they looked delighted. But the leader that was now hidden behind the barrels has yet to say a word.

I was curious so I went to look at his situation. He was foaming.

However fortunately, he was still breathing, so it looks like I discovered him just immediately after he attempted suicide.

In this world, as long as you're not dead, there would be no problem reviving you.

I immediately used 「Recover」 and 「High Heal」 to restore the man, before scooping out water with my hand from a water barrel in my magic bag and splashing it on his face. The man regained consciousness.

“In front of an S-rank healer, don't think that you would be able to die so easily. Also, if you really wish to die so much, at least be useful to others in the end before dying.”

The man remained silent.

After that, Cathy came over to call me over for dinner.

“Cathy, when did you go back to the surface?”

“I somehow had a very bad feeling nya! Nyanya?! It's super smelly here nya.”

“Is that so. Then, I order you to monitor these guys until I've finished my dinner and come back.”

“No, no way nya~!! That is way too cruel nya~, Lionel-sama~”

She said that and clung on to Lionel, but Lionel replied with a straight face.

“I am a slave, so I have no choice but to listen to the words of my owner.”

“You’re eyes are smiling nya~!”

“It’s punishment for running away on your own.”

Lionel said, causing Cathy to hang her head. 『Gaku』

I kept all the barrels of Object X into my magic bag and applied purification magic to the entire underground 5th floor.

“It’s fine like this right? Please properly keep a lookout.”

“As expected of master nya. I’ll work hard if it’s like this nya.”

I said a single sentence to Cathy who had returned to normal.

“If you get carried away, I’ll make Cathy drink Object X as well okay?”

“Nyaa!!”

The second I said that Cathy replied with a salute.

This sure is useful.

I was convinced that it was so, as I went for dinner together with Lionel.

SIDE: Assailants POV

The S-rank healer together with his slave ascended the stairs.

“Hey! You’re a slave right? If you release us, we will get a slave dealer that we know to release your slave seal.”

As a beastman slave, furthermore of a healer who are primarily human race advocates, there is a high chance that this slave is looked down upon severely, so I said after considering that, but the reply was completely out of my expectations.

“I am of course dissatisfied with the position of a slave. But that’s all. Other than that, I am interested in my current life.”

“But you’re a slave?”

I had no idea what this cat beastwoman was saying.

“That’s right. It is true that my identity is a slave. However, it’s not like I am tied down in particular, I get the same food, I’m even given time to sleep, and I live in a room with another person but we have proper beds to sleep on.”

“Ha?”

I had no idea what this person was saying.

Beastmen slaves are basically used and thrown away. Even getting leftover food would be excellent, they would normally only get water.

What’s surprising is that she is given a room and she even has a bed to sleep on.

This was completely not the treatment for a slave.

“... That guy, what kind of guy is that S-rank healer?”

“A timid person with a naive personality. But he does not discriminate against other races, and even though he holds such power and status, he is a man that doesn’t get prideful. That is why I have pledged allegiance to him.”

” ... Is that so.”

Listening to the cat beastwoman speak, I thought that it would have been a different story if I met this guy earlier, but this was probably my fate.

Our future was already set in stone.

That was why I told him everything. With what I received from the beastwoman that I could not hate, I’ve decided on what to use my life for.

SIDE END

Chapter 67

Self-awareness towards kindness and easygoing behaviour

While Lionel and I had our meal with everybody else after we returned to the 1st floor, I informed everyone that we have already captured the people who threw black powder on us in the Adventurer's Guild.

“Because of that, I hope that you all can rest in ease today. Especially Jordo-san and healers, adventurers may come for treatment from tomorrow onwards so please take your time to rest.”

“Understood. Would you be converting the men who attacked us into slaves to use them as guards as well?”

“No, I will be handing them over to the Adventurer's Guild after listening to their story. I plan to observe how the Adventurer's Guild deals with them. There is the possibility of increasing the number of slaves, however, as long as they are here, they would need to be fed but we do not have ample funds for that. Moreover, even if they are slaves, if we do not treat them humanely, the reputation of the church would be damaged, and even though there are many beastmen slaves in this country, if they starve to death, I believe it would negatively affect the sanctity of the Healer's Guild...”

I mixed my real intentions and official stance together as I stacked up excuses.

” ... I see. If that's the case then what should we do with the criminal slaves obtained yesterday?”

“I truly intend to have them work until the public order is restored and the Healer's Guild becomes operational, but after that, I might make them pledge once again or I might release them, or maybe even sell them to the slave dealers. I will decide after I properly understand them and this country.”

” ... Okay.”

I guess Jordo-san had his own line of thought. Seemed like he was thinking about various things.

After that, there was a question and answer session regarding the magic used in the demonstration today and some leisurely chat. After we’ve finished our meals, Lionel and I returned to the underground.

On the way to the underground 5th floor, Lionel spoke to me.

“Luciel-dono, you are too naive. Are you aware of that?”

I unconsciously stopped walking due to the words that came out of the blue.

“I am. But, I can’t bring myself to ignore human rights just because they are slaves. For example, I can’t accept that the slaves belong to the owner.”

I said that to Lionel who was a slave.

“Fumu. And so, are you able to differentiate between kindness and naivety?”

Lionel placed his hand on his chin and asked calmly.

“Yeah. Naivety is when you act while trying to make people like you or think well of you, kindness is when you sympathise with others.”

Now that I think about it, in my previous life when I first obtained a subordinate, I was too concerned with him, and instead hindered his growth. After that, I remember I was invited for a drink by my section chief and was scolded at the bar.”

” ... You should learn to be a little stricter. If you do so, you should be able to make people follow you even though you are young.”

What Lionel had just said was most likely what everyone that I’ve met until now felt.

I understand ... but I have no idea if I can change myself just by understanding.

If I am not slightly more conscious of this, I might set a bad example for my subordinates, maybe.

” ... Understood. I will try to learn from Lionel little-by-little. When the temporary healer clinic is established at the labyrinth, I’ll be going there with the criminal slaves so I’ll entrust holding the fort to you.”

“This and that are different topics...”

“You sure are quick in changing your attitude ... I give you my thanks for the advice, Lionel. For now please think of it that you are lucky to be bought by the naive me.”

“I might have been too impertinent, but I gave the advice because ... I feel that Luciel-dono would be in danger if you advance forward while remaining like this.”

Lionel bowed.

I wonder why is it that the uncles that I’ve met know more about me than myself.

I carved the words of Lionel, who is like a Shisho to me, deep into my chest and pledge to change bit-by-bit.

Shortly after that, we arrived at the underground 5th floor.

“So slow nya~”

“Okay, if you speak so frivolously, should I make you drink Object X to tighten your lips?”

After I said that with a smile, Cathy trembled and said while taking a praying pose.

“I beg for your mercy, anything but that nya~”

Her prayer is not bad~ I thought as I gave the command.

“There’s no helping it. If that’s the case then go swap duties with the Priest Knight Piazza.”

“Certainly nya~”

Cathy ran up the stairs in the blink of an eye.

“Was there a need for that? Nevertheless, that’s some great acting.”

I mumbled and Lionel shook his head.

“That expression is one that she makes when she really hates something.”

He said while looking at Cathy run away.

Object X is really such a threat to the beastmen huh~ I thought as we arrived in front of the prisons. The leader-like man called out to me.

“S-rank healer, could you hear me out?”

The strained atmosphere was no longer around.

“Okay.”

“What is your opinion regarding beastmen?”

The question was so abrupt that I couldn’t understand him.

” ... I don’t know what you mean?”

“Don’t you think that they are different compared to humans?”

Beast race? Like how their gestures are cute? Ah, but men from the beast race are scary so that’s moot. If that’s the case, then their special characteristics?

“They have their characteristic ears and it seems convenient if you can get used to the tail.”

” ... That’s enough. I will spit out everything that I know, so swear to me that you will not discriminate against beastmen and half beastmen.”

Even though I answered after much deliberation ... I considered him a rude guy who calls off the topic if it doesn't interest him, but there was no problem with that demand so I accepted it.

“Eh? That's completely fine. I swear to God. You will say everything as promised right?”

The stunned man remained stiff for a few seconds before spitting out a large sigh.

” ... Ha~. Firstly, the reason why Shaza could dominate the vice right? That's because he and his race, the tiger beastmen and dragonewt beastmen are involved with the Herbalist Guild.”

Those 2 races are involved in this after all. But I didn't feel that the top echelons of the Adventurer's Guild were that evil~. I'll listen to his story for now.

“In what way are they involved?”

“It's not like they have a hostage. This country did not have a Healer's Guild. That's why treatment of injuries and diseases were conducted by the herbalists of the Herbalist Guild.”

They have no other choice if there isn't a Healer's Guild.

“Yeah. I understand that.”

“After the decision to invite healers over, the Herbalist Guild approached the leader of Ienith, the dragonewt race, to abolish the invitation. At that time, it was decided because they offered discounts for their medications. Conversely, they began selling to the dog beastmen, cat beastmen, rabbit beastman and fox beastman at 2 to 5 times the price. Disputes occurred countless times, but in the end, strength was used to suppress them. It was decided that if you oppose them then you would not be able to purchase medications in the future.”

... So that was why even though they were in such a sorry state, they could not invite us. Even so ... aren't there other cities? I've heard that there are other cities in this country, does only this city have guilds? Eh, then how would the adventurers survive?

” ... So the adventurers received the aftermath as well?”

“Yeah. It was different for those guys who have formed teams long ago and adventurers from other countries, but newly registered adventurers involuntarily faced differences that divided them into clear hierarchies.”

“Can you testify that in the Adventurer’s Guild tomorrow?”

” ... Yeah, I’ll bet my life on testifying. That’s why I entrust that to you.”

I felt his resolution reflected somewhere within his eyes.

“Yeah. Eat this and wait for tomorrow.”

I passed him a bowl of bread and curry before returning to the 1st floor with Lionel while consulting with him what I should do.

“Was it thanks to Cathy that that guy became compliant?”

“I wonder? However, that expression didn’t look like he was lying.”

“Yeah. Tomorrow morning I will have the Priest Knights call over the guildmaster or vice-guildmaster. Also, that guy who is prepared to die might have a trick under his sleeve, so it would be best to maintain a barrier around the Healer’s Guild for the whole day tomorrow.”

I have no idea why there was such a commotion, but as long as we can overcome this obstacle, I have a premonition that the Healer’s Guild will be able to take root in Ienith.

The next morning, 3 Priest Knights carrying my letter left and quickly returned.

“That was fast, aren’t you all tired?”

The 3 of them were exhausted and could not talk about what happened in the 30 minutes they were gone.

Piazza-san replied as he recalled the situation.

“When we arrived at the Adventurer’s Guild, the guildmaster and vice-guildmaster were both present, but after reading Luciel-dono’s letter, they were considerably angry and chased us out from the guildmaster’s room. We have no choice but to return.”

Blitz-san joined the conversation.

“As we were exiting the guild, the beastmen that everyone healed yesterday caught us and told us.”

Dotasu-san summed it up.

“That the vice-guildmaster Jias-dono passed on a message telling us to wait at the Healer’s Guild, so we returned.”

“Thank you for your hard work. You’ve done all that you can, so please remain alert.”

『Yes!』

I muttered as I saw the 3 of them exit the Healer’s Guild guildmaster’s room.

“Dragonewt race, you better not come attacking.”

Lionel beside me grasped my shoulder and said.

“At times like this, move your body and don’t think about anything. Well then, I’ll be your opponent at the underground 4th floor.”

“Lionel just wants to fight right?”

“Because I’ve understood the reason why Whirlwind took a disciple.”

I became weak at the mention of Shisho’s name. It is true that with nothing I can do, it’s more efficient to train. I thought as I said to Lionel.

“Today will be the day I overcome your iron-clad shield.”

“Being reckless is the privilege of the young.”

Lionel replied with a laugh.

I decided to absolutely have my attack penetrate his defence and headed for the training ground.

It was a few hours later, around noon, that many beastmen approached and drew near to the Healer’s Guild.

Chapter 68

The first step towards becoming a supervisor from an individual

I was lying ungracefully on the underground 4th floor of the Healer's Guild.

"... What happened? Just when I thought that my attack reached, I was blown away. Although I do know that I was done in by that large shield ..."

Lionel lowered his large shield and shouldered his greatsword as he replied with a joyful smile.

"Until Luciel-dono's attack, I kept the shield close to my body. The moment you closed the distance to attack, I instantly thrust the shield, together with some footwork, towards Luciel-dono's direction, once again creating distance between us."

"... But how is it possible to throw a person 5 meters just relying on a shield bash and footwork?"

Even though I was approximately near the center of the training ground ... I was blown about that distance away.

"It is all achievable with reading your opponent, timing and concentration."

The battle between Broad-shisho and Lionel must have been terrific. As I had regrets about not being able to watch that fight, it felt like I had a concussion from the hit to my head since my feet were feeling shaky, so I applied 「Heal」 to my head before pointing my sword towards Lionel again ... but the Priest Knight Piazza's face appeared.

"What's the matter? Is there an attack?"

I asked, seeing the anxious expression on Piazza-san's face.

“It is not an attack, but many beastmen ... the Adventurer’s Guild guildmasters are present as well, have gathered at the Healer’s Guild.”

I could imagine that a considerable number of beastmen have congregated here judging from his anxious expression.

” ... It’s pointless if I don’t go address it huh.”

I muttered and Lionel nodded wordlessly. Although I didn’t want to go, I hoped that this would be the conclusion of this matter as I rode the magic elevator.

The moment I stepped onto the 1st floor, I saw the figures of the brothers Jasuan and Jias as well as the beastmen.

The healers were inside the reception counter and expressions of relief floated across their faces when they saw me arrive. I was delighted knowing that they relied on my slightly.

Blitz-san, Dotasu-san and the criminal slaves were not holding on to weapons, but they formed a human barricade so that the beastmen could not enter the Healer’s Guild in large numbers.

“Jasuan-dono and Jias-dono, what is the meaning of this?”

There was a single human and multiple beastmen forced to sit in front of them. There was one from each beast race among the beastmen sitting in front of them.

“You’ve come Luciel-dono. These guys are the culprits for this incident. This human is the person who handed out the bribes, the vice guildmaster of the Herbalist Guild, Gurohara.”

The man bound by rope appeared kind, it really is impossible to understand a person from just their outer appearances~. I thought as I listened to Jasuan-dono.

“From their lengthy dealings, the number of the Dragonewt and Tiger beastmen accomplices who received bribes is high. They were all tempted by these guys here. We will have the people who received bribes pay back the money stolen at a later date and we hope that the Healer’s Guild accept that for compensation.”

... It's fine for me to tsukkomi right?

“Erm, that kind of content should only be decided after gathering the representatives right? Why is it that Jasuan-dono can make the decisions?”

“It is the custom of us Dragonewts to devote our loyalty to Luciel-dono who obtained the blessing of the Dragon-sama race. Therefore, as compensation for the inconvenience the Dragonewt race has caused, we pledge to commit ourselves to make it such that the Ienith Healer's Guild and healers can operate safely.”

... Is that the dragon's oath that appears in Fantasy settings? Rather than that, was it due to the guidance from Great Luck-sensei that the Blessing from the Holy Dragon is useful here? ... The surrounding people were staring dumbfounded at me but I ignored them and asked how he found out about my blessing.

” ... How did you know that I possess the blessing?”

“The Dragonewt worships the Dragon-sama race. It is said that we Dragonewts were born from the Dragon-sama race, so all Dragonewts are capable of detecting the presence of the Dragon-sama race. That is why this guy is trembling at the thought of harming his own brethren.”

The Dragonewt kneeling on the ground was indeed trembling.

“So, we have caught all the men who caused the disturbance yesterday, but what are your plans for them?”

“Under Ienith's laws, the mastermind will be executed as an example, and the accomplices will be converted into slaves. If the punishment is set to be light, they can be made to pay for the compensation, but I hope that this time, the Adventurer's Guild can purchase the accomplices as personnel to advance the labyrinth capture.”

” ... Use and discard. Is that what you mean?”

I wasn't exactly hoping to rehabilitate everybody, but I guess it can't be done since this is the law of this country.

“I intend to lighten their charges if they capture the labyrinth and live. We will provide treatment when they dive into the labyrinth, but I predict that there will be unavoidable sacrifices due to them fighting at the forefront and disarming traps.”

Jasuan-dono asserted.

” ... I have a few conditions before handing them over to you, but I don’t see the Ienith representative Shaza, where is he?”

” ... Including him, the present representatives from various races and their close aides are missing.”

Jasuan-dono said heavily, but I felt like I’ve actually heard those words somewhere before.

As I was thinking about that, I heard a voice from among the men that were forced to sit.

“I could give you some information regarding that? Could you loosen these ropes?”

“What!”

Jasuan-dono reacted to the request by the grinning Gurohara that said that.

However, looking at Gurohara, I was reminded that it is the common pattern in novels that there are not only 3 choices to choose from.

That reaction could either be from him hitting the nail on the head or that he was wrong.

I did not look at him pretending to be calm. I looked at Jasuan-dono and said.

“No, there is no need for that Jasuan-dono. His choices are, capturing the labyrinth, fleeing to other countries or hiding in nearby villages or caves and becoming thieves. That would happen eventually. Well, with his close aides gone as well, his choice would most likely be the labyrinth. This time, with his hired assailants not returning and most likely caught, he would surely be afraid of the truth coming to light and head there.”

“But it’s a labyrinth? It isn’t a place that he can break through easily.”

“I have no clue about the actual strength of the monsters in the labyrinth, so I can’t comment about that, but Shaza-dono is confident in his own combat abilities. So isn’t it possible that he thinks that he can break through the labyrinth? Maybe he intends to write off his crimes by being the hero that protected Ienith by breaking through the labyrinth or maybe he intends to bring whatever he obtains as a souvenir to another country. Right?”

Upon saying that, Gurohara’s smile froze.

Looks like somehow I made a lucky guess.

“What? If that’s the case, then it’s imperative that we immediately head for the labyrinth.”

Said Jasuan-dono as he turned to leave but he was stopped by Jias-dono.

“Wait, brother. Nothing will be resolved by just dragging the ringleader here. That will just cause an inconvenience to the Healer’s Guild.”

“Ununu, that’s right.”

Luckily Jias-dono was calm and composed.

“Brother please head to the labyrinth with Luciel-dono. I will settle this matter with the healers here.”

“Ooo! As expected of my little brother. The right man for the job.”

“In exchange, do your best to catch him.”

“Leave it to me! Luciel-dono, let’s hurry.”

... I personally experience the fact that these 2 are brothers. Firstly, they don’t consider other people’s opinions. Next, they excitedly decide on the course of action. ... Seems like the Ienith Adventurer’s Guild have it rough. I clapped my hands together as the situation became noisy.

『Paan~』 The interior of the guild became quiet as the sound resonated within the guild.

I seized hold of the atmosphere during that momentary pause in the air, immediately began giving instructions to bring matters into my flow.

“That matter does take precedence, but I have no information about that labyrinth. Moreover, you wish to pass judgement onto them but are you capable of doing so immediately? Impossible right? Let us work on our priorities. Firstly, I entrust Jordo-san with taking the testimony of these criminals, slaves and the assailants housed underground.”

” ... Are you sure?” (Jordo-san)

“Yeah. Please convince me with a satisfactory job. You can do it right?”

“Yes!”

He replied after correcting his posture and holding his right hand to his chest. I observed him and spoke to Jias-dono.

“He will be in charge of handling the assailants and criminals. Please discuss it with him.”

“Ye, yes!”

Jias-dono bowed reverently.

“We will hold a strategy meeting on the 3rd floor, including examining the map of the labyrinth and listening to detailed reports of the monsters that appear in the labyrinth. The others, please purchase items that will come in handy for the labyrinth capture, such as food and MP potions, together with my Priest Knights. I leave this to you Blitz-san.”

“Yes!”

I passed him 3 white gold coins and instructed him to put a note on the large quantity of magic bags we bought when we departed from the Holy City so that we know what is contained in each bag.

“Healers please remain in the Healer’s Guild and maintain operations. Dotasu-san will be in charge of their safety while I leave the guild’s defence to Piazza-san and the criminal slaves as usual.”

『Yes!』

“Please tell Naria, Dolan and Paula to come to the guildmaster’s room.”

“Certainly, master.”

“Lionel and Cathy please come along.”

“Yes!” “Yes nya.”

“And individuals who are knowledgeable regarding the labyrinth mentioned by Jasuan-dono earlier please come along too.”

I said all of that before moving to the guildmaster’s room on the 3rd floor.

I snatched the atmosphere all at one go without giving the dragonewt brothers and beastmen time to make a buzz.

However, the fact that it was settled that we had to head to the labyrinth was because I was too naive in dealing with the issues up until now.

It would be excusable for me to refrain from speaking out against a more senior party as an individual. But, I saw the expressions of relief on my subordinates faces when I came out from underground.

I reflected on my actions and was determined to act as a person in charge instead of an individual. I felt that it was not too late yet, which was why I performed that clap.

I didn’t even listen to Jordo-san and other’s opinion on the matter of slaves. However, if I acted naively as pointed out by Lionel there, I felt that they would no longer have faith in me.

Upon doing so, somehow my energy surged forth. I had to do what I have not been able to do up until now.

Although reports, communications and discussions gradually strengthened, I could not convey those feelings through commands and explanations. Without me understanding their feelings, they are only my subordinates in paper.

After knowing how they feel, I must show them how I handle this.

“However, maybe it is true that clapping your hands to pray to god does have the effect of driving away misfortune.”

I muttered as I opened the door to the guildmaster’s room.

Chapter 69

Strategy meeting and onward to the labyrinth

Gathered within the Healer's Guild guildmaster's room were me, Lionel and my purchased slaves, and 3 beastmen including Jasuan-dono.

"We will now begin the strategy meeting for the labyrinth capture led by the Adventurer's Guild. The goal of this meeting is not to discuss the capture of the labyrinth, but to capture Shaza promptly without incurring any injury. Well then, is there a map for the labyrinth?"

The bird beastman took out a bundle of parchments, but the maps were not drawn well so I had to verify the contents.

"Firstly, how wide is the labyrinth?"

"It begins with a 100 meter squared width. Every 10 floors the width expands by 50 meters squared and the monsters become stronger."

It might even be larger than the Labyrinth of Tribulations. ... Ah, I forgot.

"Is there miasma and how is the food condition?"

"We have mantles that can protect against the miasma. If you don't have equipment like that, you can purchase medicine from the Herbalist Guild that can prevent the effects of miasma for a whole day. There is a supply of portable food rations for the labyrinth capture so there's no problem there."

That tasteless and flaky food huh ... I would cry eating that.

I continued drafting the plan after listening to the location of the traps from the vague maps.

After completing that section, I opened a monster encyclopedia and checked with them what monsters appear in the labyrinth. My tension dropped and a look of joy appeared on the faces of Lionel and Cathy.

Dolan and Paula were pretending to be standing by obediently at one side ... but I somehow knew that the 2 of them were thinking about how best to utilize the fire attribute magic stones dropped by the fire attribute monsters.

It seems like it might be a flame dragon this time~. Jasuan-dono opened his mouth to speak as I was thinking about that.

” ... Could we have Luciel-dono enter the labyrinth along with us?”

My thought process paused for a second, before restarting.

“Eh? Didn’t I mention it to Jasuan-dono previously?”

“I thought for sure that you would only be following until the exterior of the labyrinth to establish the temporary healer clinic.”

“Why did you think so?”

” ... I imagined that those dwarves there are the construction personnel and these here are the escort slaves.”

” ... I am fine with that as well, or rather, I welcome that instead.”

It seemed like it would be fine even if I didn’t enter? Nevertheless, I had a feeling that I must enter, so in the end, I planned to level up at upper floors.

“Please don’t say that, we’ll be in your care.”

While getting Jasuan who lowered his head once again to rise, I began choosing the personnel from the Healer’s Guild to bring along to the labyrinth. An unexpected person voiced out.

“Master, please take me along with you.”

That’s right, Naria curtsied by holding up her skirt slightly and bowed.

“I am fine with letting you come along, but as long as Lionel and Cathy permit it. The 2 of them are strong but how about Naria?”

I asked Lionel and Cathy.

“No problems.”

“I’m in favor as long she has throwing daggers and a long whip.”

It seemed like there were no other problems. I originally wanted to assign her as the waitress for the Healer’s Guild, but it’s not like there would be any problems if I don’t do so.

“I’ll allow it. However, please protect yourself and I forbid you from entering the vanguard. You will act as the crowd controller.” *(TL: I used an online gaming term here. Crowd controller or CC is basically a role whereby the person controls or restricts the movements or attacks of enemies to relieve the burden on the front lines.)*

“Thank you.”

As she bowed deeply this time, the dwarf-combi spoke out as well.

“Me too.” “Me too.”

Said the 2 of them as they leaned forward. I had intended to bring the 2 of them along from the start. I had a feeling that the Healer’s Guild would collapse if I left the 2 of them behind here.

” ... These are my orders. Don’t move about as you please, don’t make items of your own accord, don’t cause any troubles. Protect yourself. Ha~”

In the end, the members present were the ones chosen to go, forming a 6 member party huh.

Lionel will be the shield, Cathy the attacker, I will be the healer and support, Naria will be the crowd control and cook, and also the lookout if her perception is good. So what will Dolan and Paula be?

“How do the 2 of you fight?”

“I send monsters flying with a swing of my maul.”

Dolan crossed his arm and laughed.

“I’ll be fine because I have golems.”

Paula showed me her left arm, on it was a bracelet.

Hmm? Golem as in *that* golem?

“Golem as in those you can command and move?”

“Yup. Made from magic stones, they can be controlled by the magical power they recognize.”

In addition, upon asking for further details, it appears that Paula’s golem can be remote controlled using the bracelet and although only 1 golem can be controlled, it is apparently abnormally strong. I assigned Dolan to be the rearguard while Paula will operate the golem beside me.

We would only reach the labyrinth around evening if we had set off then since it takes about an hour to reach the labyrinth located in the mountains, so we decided to head for the labyrinth early tomorrow morning instead.

“Well then, we will head for the Adventurer’s Guild tomorrow morning. The people below should have come to a settlement by now.”

“Yup. Even if they are to be carried to the slave dealer, rest assured, we will bear all the costs.”

I won’t have a peace of mind, but I’ll leave it in your hands.

I thought in my heart.

Something beyond our expectations was happening when we reached the first floor.

The beastmen were all missing. Only the criminal slaves and Jias-dono were present.

Jordo-san reported to the surprised me when I returned.

“Luciel-dono, we have decided to rent out the criminal slaves present here and the assailants as our Healer’s Guild’s slaves.”

That response was completely out of my expectations so, genuinely surprised, I immediately replied.

“Why?”

He showed a slight smile as he said.

“Thinking that since they are slaves, it would be fine even if they died, would damage the name of the Healer’s Guild Church. In addition, apart from assigning the criminal slaves and assailants to protect the Healer’s Guild, we let them resolve the troubles faced by this country using the Healer’s Guild name. Doing so ought to raise the prestige and fame of the Healer’s Guild. This time, we had all of them head for the labyrinth. The fees paid by the Adventurer’s Guild for renting them is able to cover their meals and such. There was only 1 command. They must risk their life to protect Luciel-dono.”

It would have been better to discuss this with them since the beginning. Looks like the one lacking the most in reporting, communicating and discussing is me.

“... Thank you. Tomorrow morning I, my slaves and the criminal slaves will visit the labyrinth. I’ve already informed the Pope, but I will be leaving the guild under Jordo-san’s care when I’m absent.”

“Yes! I will do my best.”

“The security looks like it can kind of hold up with the 3 priest knights present, but do you want me to put in an escort request?”

“There is no need for that. The Dragonewts will defend this place to the death.”

Jias-dono said from the side.

“Is that okay?”

“Yes. I believe that the Dragon-sama race definitely anticipated today’s events. Please leave the defense of this place to me.”

I bowed to Jias-dono who hit his chest and said.

“Please protect the Healer’s Guild and its inhabitants.”

It was interesting to see Jias-dono get flustered with that, but for the sake of tomorrow’s preparations, we invited a slave dealer over to complete the procedure of converting the assailants locked underground into slaves.

It was the shop that refused to work with the Healer’s Guild before, but this time, the procedure was conducted for us at a bargain price.

And then, after everyone else had returned, I prepared the equipment required for the labyrinth dive from tomorrow onward.

Since he even properly constructed the weapons for the slaves, they were extremely grateful towards Dolan. However, the leader of the assailants spoke out during dinner.

“I’ve fallen into slavery. But, I never imagined that I can live a life of slavery with such good treatment. Thank you.”

The man only said that before keeping quiet.

I did not feel sorry for the man. However, to make sure that they do not perish in the labyrinth, I’ve decided to work hard.

The next morning, the large family of all 27 members of team Healer’s Guild headed towards the Adventurer’s Guild, linking up with the close to 50 adventurers before proceeding onwards to the labyrinth.

When we arrived at the Adventurer’s Guild, I asked for a certain something.

The dragonewt brothers gave it to me politely while saying “Here, here, feel free to take it.”

As such, I was no longer feeling gloomy and sat on the back of Fornoir, enjoying horse riding after such a long time.

Chapter 70

Dwarf-combi combat strength

The squad swelled up to about 80 members and we decided to act separately in different groups.

Firstly, Jasuan's attack group will advance forward,
a group will make a base right before the boss room on the 30th floor,
a group will stand by outside,
and my group will advance from the first floor in sequence.

It's not because I don't trust the map drawn by the bird beastman yesterday, I just thought that they may have overlooked some things ... only about 30 percent.

I searched the Labyrinth of Tribulations alone and it took quite some time to investigate a single floor.

This time, our goal was to use a human wave formation to check the map's accuracy and to secure magic stones.

That's because when I asked Paula and Dolan about the amount of magic stones required for the item I wish to be constructed, I found out that even just for fire attribute magic stone, I would need a considerable number of it.

"That's the entrance to the labyrinth."

Jasuan's voice interrupted my thoughts. Looking forward, the entrance was located below the cliff of a mountain. I noticed something at that point in time.

"This labyrinth extends upwards instead of downwards?"

"That's right. The fact that the heat increases as you climb upwards is another troublesome detail."

” There wasn’t ... any reports on that yesterday?”

“Is that so? Rather than that, is it really okay for us to advance ahead?”

Getting angry now would damage the atmosphere and would be detrimental.

I considered that and continued the conversation.

“It is fine for you to go on ahead. I’ll leave it up to Jasuan-dono if you want to rest at the 40th floor boss room, to advance carefully to not fall into any traps or to grind levels before and after the 40th floor.”

“Understood. I look forward to Luciel-dono and group catching up to us.”

“Well, we’ll try our best.”

Immediately after that conversation, we arrived at the installation location for the base camp at the labyrinth entrance.

“Men, this time, Luciel-dono will be chasing after us from below. There is a possibility you will survive if you are afflicted by petrification, deadly poison or confusion. The goal will be to capture Shaza and his group, but if we have the chance, we will try to capture the labyrinth as well.”

Jasuan-dono announced and punched his fist into the sky.

The next moment, 『Ooooooh!』 a wild roar resounded around the area.

I was also asked to say a few words but I respectfully declined.

“Well then, we will be proceeding ahead. See you later.”

“Yes. I wish you the fortunes of war.”

I sent them off and headed to the area where Fornoir and the horses were kept, casting purification magic on them.

I gently stroked Fornoir’s neck and his eyes felt like it was telling me “Good luck!”

“I’ll try my best.”

I said before handing the Fornoir and the horses to the beastmen staying behind to look after them.

Apart from my party, all the other parties were made up by the slaves.

It’s like parties commonly found in the other world novels ... But something is different! I thought as I declared to everyone.

“I will definitely save you if you have healable injuries or abnormal statuses. Hence, do not act excessively or recklessly! This is an order!”

I surveyed everybody’s faces as I enforced my motto on to them.

“I will convey the priorities. 1. Don’t die. 2. Secure magic stones. 3. Secure Shaza. 4. ... It’s fine if it can’t be done but try to capture the labyrinth. Everyone come back alive, okay?”

“Ooh!” “Nya.” “Yes!” “Yes.” I smiled bitterly at the disorganized replies before entering the labyrinth.

“It’s quite bright after all.”

I murmured and Dolan spoke out.

“I heard that if you take the labyrinth’s core, the activity will stop and the ambient light will dim. It’s like the labyrinth’s heart.”

“If we don’t retrieve the labyrinth’s core?”

“After defeating the final boss for the labyrinth? According to literature, it will return after a long time.”

So the Labyrinth of Tribulations would return to how it was someday? That was not something I should consider now so I switched gears and gave out instructions.

“Lionel and gang will standby around me. Kefin squad, Yarubo squad, and Baderu squad will advance according to the routes in the map, annihilating monsters and verifying the map’s completeness, before gathering in front of the ascending stairs.”

“Yes!”

They all replied after I finished giving my commands. I copied the maps drawn yesterday before handing those to them.

After making 4 sets including one for myself, my arm ... was fine but it was tired.

After I applied 「Area Barrier」 on the 3 squads, they advanced along the routes that were decided on yesterday.

“Luciel-dono, when would it be our turn?”

Lionel asked worriedly so I answered properly.

“You guys will have a chance to enter combat when the number of monsters increases and there are many empty spaces before the 30th floor so your turn will come soon. Well then, let’s go. I’ll leave the monsters to you all.”

“Yes!”

Seeing the sight of Lionel walking off ahead looking happy, I sympathized with the trouble the subordinates of this combat maniac have to go through.

It’s a secret that I had to stifle my laughter looking at Lionel’s disappointed expression when he realized that the monsters were already annihilated by the group that went down the path we were on before us.

After spending less than 10 minutes, we joined up with the 3 squads without anything significant happening. As we ascended to the 2nd floor, I asked about the monsters that appeared.

“Is it according to the reports?”

“Yes. There are no problems with the map and the monsters are Red Rats.”

The ex-assailant leader Kefin replied. He was more outstanding than I had expected.

I wondered why they ... Those kinds of thoughts floated in my mind, but I knew that it was due to the environment they grew up in and the reality of unequal rights, so I held my tongue.

It looked like 「Area Barrier」 lasted for a whole level without a problem, so from then on, I applied 「Area Barrier」 on the party at each level as we advanced, finally arriving at the 10th floor boss room after about 90 minutes.

“According to the reports, Red Lizardmen should have appeared as well, but this time, it looks like there are only Red Snakes, Red Bats and Red Rats so let’s breakthrough in one go.”

When the Kefin squad opened the door and we passed through, we saw a group of monsters centered around Red Snakes, but we opened the opposite door within minutes.

Each of their combat potential was strong, their annihilating speed was fast and Naria threw daggers at the Red Bats dangling from the ceiling, dropping them one after another. It was impressive.

“Naria, are your main attacks centered around middle range distance?”

“No, the insignificant me is only throwing the daggers. I have plenty of better attacks.”

Naria laughed.

After that, we didn’t face any struggles as we advanced. In front of the 20th floor boss room, I announced to them.

“We will be having a meal and rest break after annihilating the enemies in this boss room so psyche yourselves up.”

『Oooh!』

The atmosphere became a great deal better. Lionel and Cathy had gradually more combat with monsters so they looked like they were having fun.

However, the 2 member dwarf-combi were instead discussing various things.

There was no telling what would happen, so I told them to prepare for battle and they acknowledged.

What appeared when we opened the door were Red Orcs and Red Wolves, but Dolan touched the ground and Paula made a stance, causing a 5 meter Golem to appear.

The golem that totally looked like a super robot shocked all of us. The golem surprisingly flew towards the Red Orc and kicked it, before chasing after the prone Red Orc and releasing a jumping elbow, causing it to turn into magic stones.

The Red Wolves were defeated by Cathy without me being aware of it, but we could only stare dumbfounded at the strong impact caused by the golem.

The dwarf-combi high-fived and looked satisfied.

” ... Is that normal?”

” ... I have never seen a golem move so smoothly before.”

Lionel was extremely surprised.

“Dolan, Paula, how do you ... no, is that a golem?”

“It’s a collaboration with grandfather.”

“I can’t control it so I make an imitation of it and Paula controls it. However, the size of the golem changes depending on the magical power within the bracelet Paula is wearing.”

He said as he repeatedly glanced at me, hinting at asking for more magic stones.

” ... How many magic stones do you need to summon that? Answer me honestly. That’s an order.”

The dwarf-combi had looks of regret as Paula replied.

“Putting together the magic stones that we’ve obtained here, we can easily build 20 of them. But they would be useless unless slightly more stones are used to extend their time limit.”

Although they always cause problems, when it comes to production and combat with their strengths combined, this dwarf-combi is outrageous.

I thought as I passed my instructions to them for the use of magic stones for golems.

The 2 of them looked unsatisfied, but they were brimming with motivation after the next sentence.

“This is not a playground. If you 2 do what I tell you to do and once the labyrinth search is over, I promise to give you the secured magic stones for production use. Which is why, work hard and strictly adhere to my commands.”

“Leave it to me.”

“I’ll do my best.”

I nodded as I purified the room before I began preparations for our meal together with Naria.

Chapter 71

Capture that went too smoothly

After our meal, I retrieved the maps, from a beastman of each respective squad, that I had requested to have drawn.

I retrieved a table and chair from my magic bag and drew an easy-to-understand map.

Yesterday, I selected a few members who could draw maps and had them draw maps the same way as me. I recorded down whatever differences or variations I saw in the copied maps I retrieved.

There were traps as well but they were safely disarmed. However, I was surprised because even the type of traps was noted down.

By the time I had finished consolidating all the maps, they have all had plenty of rest and were already ready and waiting for me.

I stored the table and chair in my magic bag and spoke out.

“Thank you for your hard work this morning. We will now aim for the 30th floor. There will be more traps from here on out and the monsters will become stronger so safety first and let’s reach the 30th floor by today~!”

『Yes!』

Even though the voices were disorganized, the uniform reply made it not as disorganized. As I had that thought, I applied 「Area Barrier」 on all the squads before setting off.

Beginning from the 21st floor, the Red XX named monsters became Fire XX monsters.

Fire attribute monsters like Fire Rats, Fire Snakes, Fire Bats and Fire Rabbits began appearing.

They are supposed to be formidable enemies that are clad in fire, use fire magic or fire breaths, but the labyrinth capture proceeded smoothly.

There are traps and the monsters are supposed to be stronger, but each floor takes only about 30 minutes to advance through.

“Is it okay to advance at such a quick pace?”

I did say that it was fine to go a bit crazy, but aren't we getting carried away?

“I'll tell you this, those 2 escorts are abnormally strong and we are not so weak as well.”

Said the assailant leader Kefin.

Despite being a beastman, as a halfling, he had little authority in the organization, but he desperately trained in combat skills and thievery skills and managed to gather together such a group.

“Moreover, this time, even if we screw up slightly, we can be healed as long as we are alive.”

Kefin said with laughter and led his squad in tow.

” ... Because of Luciel-dono's strong barrier magic, even if we receive any attack, it would only be to the extent of getting grazed, so I think they also know that they are not going to be used and thrown away.”

Lionel added and walked ahead.

Since entering the labyrinth, other than casting 「Area Barrier」 and a couple of 「Heal」, I have not done anything. I have not even defeated any monsters. I merely recovered the magic stones collected by each of the squads at the end of each floor.

The interior of the labyrinth was gradually getting warmer, but I haven't had any problem due to my equipment.

I had complex feelings at the moment because I was not feeling any stress currently, compared to the time I've had since arriving at Ienith, as we advanced deeper into the labyrinth.

“I see it! That seems to be the 30th floor boss room, since the base is located in front of it.”

Prompted by Lionel's voice, I looked forward intently and saw that there were indeed people gathered there.

“However, why didn't they wait within the boss room? It should be safer there right?”

“I'll ask them for the details.”

“Okay. I will start treatment if there are any injured individuals, if not, I'll begin preparing food. We might have to raid the boss room depending on the situation, so I intend to have plenty of food and rest to recover our strength for tomorrow's exploration.”

Not only to Lionel, I said it to the surrounding others as well and we all arrived at the base.

“Are there any injured people or those with abnormal statuses? Don't reserve yourself and call out even if it is mild. If there are multiple injured, I will chant an 「Area Heal」 to heal everybody.”

There were about 15 members in the base, but some of them had injuries so I treated them. As I once again realize that my slaves have greater proficiency, Lionel's poked his face in.

“Apparently it differs among labyrinths, but as long as somebody is within a boss room, the door to go back in the boss room of other floors do not open. Seems like this is basic manners taught within the Adventurer's Guild.”

The instant I heard that, I recalled the incident that happened to me on the 40th floor in the Labyrinth of Tribulations where I could not return.

Due to that, I only gave Lionel a half-hearted “Ah” reply.

If only I listened properly when I was registering in Meratoni's Adventurer's Guild, I might have been able to return after my battle with the Specter Knight King.

I could infer that it was definitely because the Valkyrie Paladin Corps dived in to rescue me that I could not open the door.

However, I put a stop to my negative thinking at this point.

Such misfortune despite the presence of Great Luck-sensei? ... Impossible.

I bet that it was because I cannot break through the labyrinth without clearing that section.

I apologized to the worried people around me for spacing out as I endured the feeling of wanting some restful sleep. We spent a night at that base ... Or not.

Kefin and squad advised quietly that it would be better to rest in the 30th floor boss room.

"S-rank-sama, we should rest within."

The other slaves also gave the same recommendation.

I felt that the eyes of each and every one of them showed concern and worry for impending danger.

"Understood."

"Sorry but we will be resting inside. After getting a few hours of sleep we will be advancing forward so I'm sorry but we'll be entering."

I said as Lionel and others entered the 30th floor boss room.

I cast 「Area Barrier」 roughly around the same time as we entered and asked.

"I trust you all have a reason for this?"

"Yeah. They are the type of adventurers with ill behaviours so we usually avoid them. The truth is, they are the labyrinth clean up squad. They try to get closer to you and either mix poison into your food or gather monsters using monster baiting drugs."

"... Isn't that illegal?"

“Anything can happen within a labyrinth.”

Said Kefin.

” ... Ha~. Let’s quickly defeat it, have our dinner and get some sleep.”

『Yes!』

The 30th floor boss room was made up of a Fire Bear, 5 Fire Wolves and 3 Fire Birds, but as expected the combat ended immediately.

Lionel led the battle, smiling as he stopped the strong arm attack from the Fire Bear with his large shield, before using his greatsword to bisect it into 2. Cathy weakened the herd of Fire Wolves by hit-and-run tactics and Naria dropped the Fire Birds using her throwing daggers.

At that point, Kefin and the slaves cooperated with them and dealt the final blows.

Multiple members had light burn wounds, but we didn’t face any trouble at all.

After applying purification to the boss room and having our meal, I let everyone pass their time whichever way they wanted.

Dolan and Paula inspected weapons and armour, Cathy and Naria prepared tomorrow’s meal, while Lionel chatted with the slaves.

After I finished drawing the maps, I announced that there were no issues and practiced some magic training before sleeping using the Angel’s Pillow.

“Asleep huh. What a seriously nonsensical healer.”

Said Lionel as he laughed.

“Old man, you are this S-rank’s slave right?”

Asked Kefin.

“Yeah. Although it slips my mind sometimes.”

“So the S-rank really does treat the slaves that naively after all?”

“That’s right. He feeds us, gives us satisfactory equipment and doesn’t make us do unreasonable tasks.”

“I’ve never dreamed that he would tell us to come back alive.”

Kefin laughed and the surrounding slaves began laughing as well.

“Old man, you are a military personnel right? Moreover one of considerable standing.”

“Hou. Why do you think so?”

“Because you act while grasping the movement of the whole troop during combat. That’s something ingrained. Well, apart from when you were fighting with the Fire Bear.”

“Because there was a need to test to what extent the barrier could function.”

” ... That magic is abnormal. Even after receiving an attack that would originally cause a deep wound, all I got was a slight scratch.”

Kefin touched his body and replied.

“Don’t be reckless. Desperately sharpen your fangs. If you do that, I’m sure Luciel-dono would not forsake you all.”

“What about you old man? You look like you have an ambition within your heart.”

When Kefin asked that, Lionel answered with a laugh.

“It is my long-cherished ambition to live as a warrior. To me, it is agonizing to have to stand above others.” (*TL: ie. to command others*)

“Old man, if you actively tried, you can release yourself from slavery right?”

“Luciel-sama’s enemies are not limited to those this time. He would surely get caught up in other incidents. It would be amusing to have a bout with strong individuals that he comes across. Moreover, S-rank healer-sama’s legend would be told one day. When that day comes, it would be a warrior’s honour to be enshrined as the strongest fighter that supported him.”

Lionel stifled his laughter.

Looking at Lionel act that way, Kefin continued watching Lionel, envious of a certain aspect.

Chapter 72

Missing advance party, capture meeting to ensure safety

When I woke up, almost all the others were still asleep. Looking at that, I began stretching and thought about what I should do with the criminal slaves.

I think that their abilities are pretty excellent.

Although they do not stand out like Lionel and others, the whole organization display exceedingly high level of cooperation by working together.

Once the Healer's Guild is rebuilt and the Ienith healer clinic is established, I would be able to journey out.

When that happens, I feel like it would be a waste to keep them there at Ienith's Healer's Guild.

"... As might be expected, it would be difficult to bring all of them along, but I wonder if I have any way to do so~."

I murmured as I began my magic training after my stretches, but Naria woke up before I could start so we made breakfast together.

I considered who to bring along for my future journey.

After having our breakfast and confirming every squad's condition, I announced today's goal.

"From here on it will be the labyrinth that has activated. Monsters like Fire Lizardman and Fire Bear have been reported to appear. It should take longer to search compared to yesterday but that's fine. We will aim for the 40th floor but today as well we will carefully advance with safety as our priority!"

『Yes!』

After applying 「Area Barrier」 on each squad, I added.

“If the monsters become too strong and searching becomes difficult, I will have to consolidate the squads. I believe the traps will become more heinous so do earnestly take note of your surroundings.”

Kefin and others were momentarily baffled but began laughing soon after.

” ... Did I say something funny?”

“No, we’re just happy that you worry for us. Because if there are more people that are like you S-rank-sama, I believe slaves like us would be able to live a bit easier.”

Kefin and others grinned as they set off to explore the 31st floor.

I thought that I would be angered by that, but for some reason, I could not get angry with that smile.

As I sighed, I applied 「Area Barrier」 on my group as well and began searching.

“So hot~.”

Judging by my body sensation, the temperature had rose by about 10 degrees. It wasn’t the heat like being shined upon by the sun, but more like the heat from moving close to a stove.

“It would be good to diligently drink fluids. Don’t refrain and call out to me if you all want to have a water break.”

I said to Lionel and group. Due to my temperature regulating equipment, I only felt the heat on my face, but their whole body was subjected to that heat so it should be unbearable.

As the labyrinth floor spanned 400 square meters and was made up of nothing but branches in paths, we proceeded while waiting for each other. We gradually filled in the map as we advanced, but although our speed had not changed, we gradually had more members injured with burns and scratches.

However, after casting 「Area Heal」, they happily embarked on further exploration.

“I somehow feel like I’m doing a devil’s deed, is this really fine?”

“I also want to explore like them.”

“I also want to go nya! It would definitely be double the fun nya!”

Said the combat maniac-combi.

Their wish will definitely come true. Since there isn’t a map from the 40th floor onward.

I advanced through the labyrinth without saying that.

Although it took an hour to climb a single floor, I took a full day to circle a floor in the Labyrinth of Tribulation, so I realized the effectiveness of a human wave technique on a labyrinth.

We had our lunch in front of the stairs leading up to the 36th floor. To keep the monsters away, I slightly opened the lid on the barrel of Object X before returning to the place everyone else was, upon which they looked at me with puzzled expressions.

” ... Even though that is fine to drink, I did not place it there for others to drink. Doing so would keep monsters at bay. That’s why there’s no need for lookouts. I did it because it’s more effective for all of us to rest all at once.”

Upon saying that, everyone looked astonished at the barrel of Object X.

When I was cooking, when we were eating and even when we were resting after our meal, they looked in the direction of the barrel the whole time.

When monsters did indeed not come close, it looked like they had changed their perception of Object X due to Object X’s greatness.

However, what do they think about me who can drink Object X with a composed expression when it is even avoided by monsters? I did not have the courage to ask that.

Just like yesterday, I retrieved the maps from each of the squads and filled in the blank area, discovering that it was once again filled with an abundance of traps.

“Is it fine to continue advancing forward with it being like this?”

When I asked the leader of each squad that, Kefin answered as the representative.

“It can be done up until the 40th floor. However for advancing beyond that, to be safe, with our abilities we would need to increase our numbers.”

After saying that, Kefin and the others all revealed a face of frustration.

“Is that so ... understood. Well then, I will reorganize the squads from 3 squads into 2.”

After saying so, they had a look of surprise, but that was my intention since the beginning.

” ... It can be done up until the 40th floor.”

I felt that Kefin had a tinge of anger in his words, but I answered while smiling.

“I assume that you all would not be able to cooperate well if I reorganize the squads upon arriving at the 40th floor. It’s not that I don’t trust you, I just wish to avoid pointlessly facing tough battles. Moreover, it’s been a long time since I’ve had stress-free days. Please let me enjoy it a little more.”

I don’t know how much my excuse convinced them, but they looked at me with eyes filled with pity and agreed.

I filled in the blank spaces in the maps until the 40th floor, but we did not find a single treasure box.

I don’t know if they have already been collected or that we would not encounter a treasure box even if we enter a new floor, but we arrived at the 40th floor boss room.

“They’re not here huh.”

“Yeah. I guess they went ahead.”

“Maybe they’ve already found them nya.”

“... Is there a high chance of that happening?”

I thought that they would be here by the time we arrived here, but Jasuan-dono and group were nowhere to be seen. Lionel and Cathy heard my mutterings and gave their respective replies which matched my thoughts.

“We’ll rest after we’ve annihilated the monsters in the boss room. From tomorrow onward, depending on the situation above, we will set our base here and search for Jasuan-dono and group as we advance.

“Understood.”

Lionel bowed and Cathy followed suit.

The 40th floor boss was not the Chimera that Jasuan-dono fought, but 5 Sabertooth Tigers clad in flames.

They were extremely fast and had very strong offensive power, but Lionel blew them away with his large shield and Cathy and the others attacked together in one swoop to finish them.

When I was casting 「Heal」 on the criminal slaves remotely, Naria restrained the monster that was approaching me while Dolan held his maul and Paula created a 3 meter Golem to protect me.

It would have normally been a tough battle, but today it ended within a few minutes as well, causing me to experience a sense of reliability as I applied 「Purification」 and 「Area High Heal」 to heal everyone at one go, before beginning to prepare dinner.

The dinner passed with a relaxed mood as I praised each of them for the well-fought battle, causing them to get excited.

After I had dinner together with everyone and finished drawing the maps, I began a labyrinth capture meeting with the leaders of each squad, Kefin, Yarubo, Baderu and Lionel.

“Well then, let’s begin the meeting. I expect the monsters to get stronger and the labyrinth to widen when we enter the 40th floor tomorrow. Please suggest how we should advance upwards.”

“I’ll start.”

Lionel raised his hand and announced, asking for permission and I nodded.

“I believe the plan is to proceed with 3 squads from tomorrow onwards, but I wish to reorganize the search party such that Cathy and I join separate squads and the remaining squad will be made up of the bodyguards for Luciel-dono.”

After Lionel said that a voice of dissent sounded out.

“Old man, we will be able to somehow fight if our number increases!”

Kefin exclaimed and I felt slightly uneasy due to the increased danger from the lack of those 2 members, but I took into consideration the most efficient choice.

” ... It’s so that the search will be more efficient and even if we suffer injuries, it would reduce the probability of death right?”

“Yes. If the monsters that regularly appear on the upper floor stalks the floor, it would be good if we only get injured, but it is also conceivable that we face instant death.”

“Guh.”

Kefin had a sour face after hearing that and looked downwards. Looks like he is, at least, aware of his own abilities.

“If Luciel-dono gets attacked, as long as you continue healing them, they should be able to act as a shield. There’s a Golem as well so it wouldn’t be that dangerous.”

“I can somehow make do if there’re enough magic stones.”

Paula grasped her hands and said.

I recalled a certain individual from my previous life, but I immediately shook my head and accepted that suggestion.

” ... Understood. I will entrust the reorganization of the squad to you. Next, we’ll have to discuss measures against the heat and about the search, but we’ll tackle the heat measures first. Can you create a magic tool to combat the heat?”

“I can. But is there a need for it?”

Paula tilted her head.

“We’re accustomed to heat so we can’t sense any difference.”

Dolan replied in afterthought. If that’s the case, then does it mean they are weak to cold? I wondered in my mind but I looked around and the others also replied that it was not needed.

“Is that so. However, if you sweat then do replenish with liquids. Next, it would change depending on the labyrinth capture situation, but I think we should limit ourselves to 5 floors a day. Judging by each squad’s level of exhaustion, I don’t mind if we even search a floor a day. Any objections?”

Nobody raised any objections.

“Dolan and Paula will check on the ruined equipment. Later, please discuss formations etc. with your respective squads.”

『Yes!』

After the meeting ended, I performed some magical manipulation training as I muttered grudgingly for the fact that I recalled that I took a hundred times longer to reach the 40th floor of the Labyrinth of Tribulations.

“If that’s the case ... No, it’s just because we’ve been lucky. Continuing to progress in such a good manner indefinitely would be doub...” *(TL: He basically stops himself so that he doesn’t jinx it. Thanks Anonymous and Will for the suggestions.)*

I stopped myself from speaking any further as I prayed to the Gods and my ancestors that the exploration tomorrow proceeds safely as well.

Chapter 73

Information on another reincarnated individual and the labyrinth treasure chest

We were shocked when we climbed up to the 41st floor. Firstly, the temperature in the labyrinth dropped.

Due to that, we no longer needed the heat insulating magic tools that we made yesterday and we could have saved those magic stones.

Considering that we might fall into a situation whereby they have to immediately use the magic stones, I entrusted them to Paula and Dolan just in case, but it seems like the magic stones would be used for Golem-sama.

“Well then, Kefin squad will be my escort. I’ve been wanting to ask this since a long time ago, you disappeared in the Adventurer’s Guild right? How did you do it?”

I was absolutely curious about the body replacement Ninjutsu technique seemingly from the manga world.

” ... It is said to be called Ninjutsu?”

Was this also from a reincarnated individual? I’ll investigate further.

“Why did you answer like you are unsure? Is that Ninjutsu a skill?”

“Yes. Previously, a man arrived at Ienith and he was tattered and penniless. However, he could erase the sound of his footsteps, show us illusions that appear at where there wasn’t anything before, and even though he should have been a human male, he could alter his looks to look like a beastman.”

Most likely his skill gradually leveled up.

“I thought that our work would be easier with his ability so my organization hired him. From then on he taught us Ninjutsu, but one day, he died in this labyrinth.”

“?! How did that happen?”

“I’ve told you about those guys on the 30th floor, most likely it was the work of those guys.”

“He may have died in the labyrinth without even his body remaining, but there is also a possibility that he is still alive right?”

“No, among the guys who explored the labyrinth together with him, only 2 came back, but those 2 also died the next day. There’s no doubt that the 2 of them were assassinated when they were on the verge of dying.”

..... It’s not confirmed that he was a reincarnated individual. Calm down. I didn’t think that I would be so unsettled from hearing about a total stranger die.

” ... When did this happen? And what was his name?”

“About 2 years ago. He was about the same age as S-rank-sama. I don’t know if he was lying or not but he called himself Hattori.”

... It can’t be helped even if I think about it now. But, Ninjutsu huh ... I wonder if I can learn that as well?

“Can I learn that skill as well?”

” ... Yes, but I would like to have a request if I am to teach you. I know that this deviates from my slave social standing but ...”

“I’ll hear you out for now. So don’t ease your battle posture. It’s dangerous so keep an eye out for your surroundings as you speak.”

” ... Sorry. I hope that S-rank-sama could take me with you when you go on a journey. I don’t care even if I remain a slave for life.”

Said Kefin as he bowed once again and faced forward.

” ... It’s a distant future before I set off for a journey. Well, I’ll keep it in mind.”

Kefin’s ears perked up with a 『Pin』 . I don’t know if he was nervous or happy but he looked like he was pumped.

After that, 2 Fire Bears and a Fire Sabretooth Tiger appeared, but as Paula’s Golem pressed the 2 Fire Bears, 7 criminal slaves performed a cooperation attack towards the Fire Sabretooth Tiger and they defeated it without receiving any injuries.

The Golem manipulated by Paula grabbed the 2 Fire Bears with each of its hand and constricted them with a bear hug, turning them into magic stones.

From that fatherly gag-like action, I felt like I was gradually getting to know Paula’s personality better. However, I’ll first heal and give words of appreciation to Kefin and the others.

“You guys are cooperating well even at the 40th floors.”

I said as I re-applied 「Area Barrier」 after completely healing all of them with a 「Area Middle Heal」 . They gave me complicated expressions but Kefin replied with a single word.

” ... We’ll work hard.”

I had Paula hold on to the 2 magic stones from the Fire Bear while I kept the magic stone from the Fire Sabretooth Tiger in my magic bag.

After that, we finally finished exploring the 500 square meter 41st floor after 2 hours of walking through innumerable branches in the paths.

“How is everyone’s condition? Are you guys able to continue exploring?”

I questioned Lionel, Cathy, and Kefin and they determined that they could.

The exploration party only had minor scratches so they were certainly fine.

Stepping foot onto the 42nd floor, we encountered our first treasure chest.

Just before we finished exploring the 42nd floor, Cathy's squad discovered the treasure chest and called out.

"Master, there's a treasure chest nya! I want you to open it nya."

"Why do you want me to open it?"

Cathy's squad's Baderu answered.

"The treasure in a labyrinth changes depending on the person who opens it. Although you must remove the traps, but the contents depend on the luck of the person opening it."

"That's something I heard for the first time. Well, let's do it after we join up with Lionel's party."

We joined up with Lionel's group 10 minutes later and headed to the room where Cathy's squad found the treasure chest before I opened the treasure chest.

What appeared was ?

"... What is this?"

It was a non-transparent scarlet bead.

Just in case, I held it after applying purification magic, but even after channelling magic through it, I had absolutely no idea what it was.

The dwarf-combi stared wide eyed at it stiffly, but I determined that it was not something that could be used at that moment so I stored it in my magic bag.

"Unfortunately, it was not a magic book or equipment. That's right. Just in time, maybe we should have slightly earlier lunch."

I announced and we had lunch. During lunch, I enquired Dolan and Paula about what that item was and it was unexpectedly something that made me grin.

Even after moving through the 43rd floor and reaching the 44th floor, we absolutely did not see any signs of people. Lionel muttered a word.

” ... This might be bad.”

I picked that up as I was close to him.

“What’s bad? Is it because the labyrinth is difficult to capture? Or are strong enemies going to appear?”

Lionel turned to face me and answered.

” ... I was considering the worst. It’s fine if we are merely chasing after them, but if we handle it poorly there is a chance the whole party gets wiped out ...”

” ... What do you mean?”

“Today is the 3rd day for our labyrinth capture, but we are still advancing too blindly. It’s not recommended to continue pushing into unknown territory like the 40th floors. In addition ... we don’t even know about the combat abilities of the entourage including Shaza in the first place.”

“Do you mean that I’ve been led here but Shaza is not present?”

“No, he should be here. At the labyrinth entrance, there were a number of horse footprints. From what I’ve heard from Jasuan-dono, the adventurers do not come to the labyrinth by horse. That’s why I think that he is present but ...”

” ... Then, let’s return to the 40th floor. It is about an hour’s distance from here right? So it doesn’t make much difference if we rest here or we rest on the 40th floor?”

Certainly, sending for help is a viable choice but that is not of importance to me.

What’s important is my life and their lives.

It feels weird but I think that it’s wrong to put their lives on the balance to go save them. *(TL: I take it that the ‘them’ refers to the advance party?)*

In the end, they followed me to occupy the 40th floor boss room. There were fewer conversations as we preserved our strength for the exploration tomorrow.

The next day, everyone woke up early.

As I had my breakfast, I was fraught with emotions as they had decided to go to such lengths for the sake of the adventurers.

“We will proceed as a single group until the 45th floor, but stay sharp and advance!”

『Yes!』

Within an hour, we arrived at the point we turned back, but we still did not meet anyone.

Even after we finished exploring the 45th, 46th, and 47th floor, we still had not seen any traces of Jasuan-dono and group.

“In the end, today’s only harvest is that bracelet.”

Earlier, when exploring the 47th floor, we discovered a second treasure chest and upon opening it I found a bracelet. But in the end, I had no idea what it was so I stored it in my magic bag.

Previously, I considered taking the 「Appraisal」 skill but it cost 100SP so I quickly gave up on that. *(TL: I just realised that the previous Appraisal skill that I translated was supposed to be Proficiency Appraisal instead, I think this Appraisal is the one you guys are more familiar with, for now, it seems like it’s for appraising unknown items.)*

“I’d like to discuss with you all. Do we proceed on to another floor? Or do we leave it for tomorrow?”

” ... On the whole, they don’t look physically or mentally tired.”

“We’re not hungry yet either nya.”

“S-rank-sama, we are fine even if we don’t sleep for 2 or 3 days. Of course, please spare us from doing so before the 50th floor boss, but we are able to do continue up until that 50th floor boss room.”

Lionel, Cathy, and Kefin continued one after the other and the others didn’t seem to have any problems either.

“Okay. We’ll advance then. However, I’ve said it many times but have safety as your priority.”

Thus, we advanced up to the 48th floor and finally discovered the advance party.

Chapter 74

The feeling of wanting to escape and the feeling of wanting to save

We were just about to finish exploring the 48th floor without any result. However, Kefin suddenly cried out.

“There’s somebody getting surrounded by monsters!”

I looked over to confirm and saw a figure within a swarm of monsters ahead.

” ... Wait.”

I called out for everyone to wait as I had an uncomfortable feeling.

“Why ... ?”

Please stop with those gazes like you’ve misjudged me.

“Look properly. It’s clearly suspicious. Although those are monsters that appear on this floor, I don’t know if it’s due to a mutation or it’s a different type but the body color is different. Moreover, they are just being playful.”

Everyone kept silent and began confirming that that was a fact.

“I don’t know if it is an enemy or ally so let’s approach closer after we’ve joined up with the others.”

The monsters continued playing around for 20 minutes after I announced that.

“That’s strange.”

“That is clearly something that we’re mistaken about nya.”

“Let’s advance with maximum vigilance.”

After applying 「Area Barrier」, it was time to approach the monster herd ahead.

“Ah, Healer-oniichan.”

Surprisingly, Shiela-chan appeared from within the monsters!

“Eeh!? Shiela-chan? You came alone?”

“Yup. I came here together with Papa and the others but he said that there are a lot of people chasing them so it’s dangerous and asked me to hide ...”

Ah, this looks like a pattern where I make her cry.

“Is that so. Well, would you like to chase after your father together with us?”

“Eh? Is it okay?”

“I can’t leave you alone here after all. Nevertheless, are those surrounding monsters your friends?”

“Yup. I could not speak when I was small so Papa brought these children over for me.”

She looked delighted when she said that but she didn’t bring them along when she came to the Holy City and they weren’t with her when she came to welcome us?

“But they weren’t with you before?”

“Yup. I was told that there are people within the church that would hurt my friends so I could not bring them.”

” ... Ah, I see. Could Shiela-chan make your friends not hurt us?”

“Sure. Gimme a moment.”

Shiela-chan gestured repeatedly to frantically appeal to the monsters.

And seems to have somehow secured our safety.

“It’s alright now.”

“Is that so. Thank you. By the way, how long have you been in here?”

“It’s only been awhile. A lot of people attacked Kapu-chans but we turned the table on them.”

... Well nobody imagined that she had tamed them. But that misconception is out of the window now. I had a headache from trying to comprehend that, but I asked her about the state of the adventurers.

“Where are the people that attacked you?”

“They are asleep in that room. The others are chasing after Papa’s party.”

“Wait a minute. That group didn’t have any ill intent so please forgive them. I’ll also apologize for them.”

Her face stiffened for an instant when I said that, but she immediately gave me an OK with conditions.

” ... If Healer-oniichan says so then it’s okay, but I definitely want them to apologize to Kapu-chan and group.”

“I understand.”

I acknowledged her conditions and headed for the room that Shiela-chan pointed out.

Within the room was 6 adventurers with faint breaths after having been beaten up.

I was relieved that they had slight movements, immediately applying 「Heal」 on them and waited for them to regain consciousness.

” ... It’s great that they are actually alive.”

If the adventurers here were dead, I believe Shiela-chan’s position would turn for the worst.

“Is it not a crime if no evidence is left behind in a labyrinth? Or will the adventurers who attacked the monsters of a tamer be treated as criminals?”

There wasn’t any reply to my mutterings.

Shortly after, the adventurers woke up and agreed to apologize after I explained to them about Shiela-chan and the monsters she tamed.

“And why did you all not wait for us to join up with you all?”

“When we arrived on the 40th floor ...”

According to his explanation, when they arrived at the 40th floor boss room, they could not enter and judged that it was because Shaza's party was currently fighting within it.

They caught up to them once on the 42nd floor but they shook off the arrest. They did not see any signs of them on the 43rd floor so they took a rest there.

Apparently, the monsters became stronger when they ascended the floors and exploration was harder to advance than expected.

"We were already at our limit so the Guildmaster went on ahead but we thought that girl was being attacked so..."

... If Kefin rushed in for an attack just now as well, it would have become a second offense against them.

"I understand. Your wounds have been healed so do you want to join up with us?"

"Yes please."

The 6 adventurers bowed down. So together with Shiela-chan, there was an addition of 7 members in total.

It was a surreal sight to see adventurers bow down to Shiela-chan and her monsters.

Without immediately continuing their pursuit, I completely filled out the maps for the 48th and 49th floor before we arrived at the 50th floor.

"Papa's party is not around."

"Well, I believe they should be on this floor."

They should know better than to challenge a boss room while being fatigued.

"Let's take a short break. We can't have our concentration drop due to having an empty stomach, so let's have a light meal."

The adventurers and Shiela-chan were delighted at my announcement.

Especially Shiela-chan, maybe she had not eaten for a whole day, but she steadily gulped down food with her small body.

It would be a waste of time to cook now, so I offered the leftover food from before.

But there weren't any complaints.

“Listen up. The enemy waiting for us in the 50th floor boss room will be incomparable to the monsters that have appeared until now. I even feel like quietly leaving if possible.”

“Does your blood not boil in face of a strong enemy?”

Lionel was fired up, but I disregarded him.

“This party's motto is safety first. It may be too late to say this now but it would be best if we can pass without fighting. Please bear that in mind.”

There were sparse replies and we began our exploration.

Even when exploring the 50th floor, I did not chase after Jasuan-dono's party.

Without doing anything special, I drew the map for the floor little-by-little as usual.

After making rounds around the 50th floor, we once again found a treasure chest and my tension rose but I refrained from rejoicing.

In addition, I've been hearing sounds of battle from the boss room since earlier.

“There's nobody around. I can only think of 1 possibility. If possible, I don't want to battle that.”

The entrance door to the boss room was prevented from closing by 2 thick logs. Peeping into the room, I saw a 3 sided battle between a Red Dragon, Shaza's party and Jasuan's party unfolding.

As expected, Lionel himself wanted to join the fray, but he did not rush in.

Inside the room, the Red Dragon was spitting fire breath, attacking with its tail, swinging its arms and biting with its maw. I was impressed by the surprisingly wide variation of attacks from the Red Dragon.

Just by observing them, I found that all members were still alive so I understood that not much time had passed since they entered the boss room.

It might be wise to quickly enter to save them, but looking at that does indeed make my feet tremble.

I can confidently claim that if we had the enormous Golem fight with that, it would even shock special effects heroes.

Even if we use arrows they would be repelled by the hard scales and even in close combat, we would not be able to close the distance because the opponent's reach is too far.

“Lionel, do you have confidence in stopping its attacks?”

Lionel replied with a stern look.

” ... If I receive the attack squarely, even if I don't die, I would be blown away.”

“Cathy, can you evade the attacks and perform your own attacks?”

Cathy answered concisely with her usual nonchalant manner.

“It's possible nya. However, I cannot deal significant damage to it nya.”

“Dolan and Paula, can you construct a Golem that can stop that?”

“I believe the largest one can grapple it ... ”

“The magical power would wear out within 30 seconds. Even if we use every available piece of magic stone, the Golem will crumble if it receives too much damage.”

Dolan crossed his arms and Paula touched her Golem control bracelet.

My mind was telling me to go back. Those words repeated themselves countless times.

However, Shiela-chan had been grasping my robe tightly while shivering since a while ago and I did not have the heart to remove her hand.

If I cherished my life I would have turned back then.

My words and actions were contradictory.

I understood in my mind but I could not move my body.

It's not because there's a small child asking me for help. It's because I did not have the resolution to kill others nor let others die without helping.

I was swallowed within a vortex of thoughts.

A muddy stream of thoughts of wanting to save them and wanting to flee swept through me.

The little girl beside me cut through my chaotic thoughts.

“Nooo!”

The next instant, the figures of Shaza's aides, including Shiela-chan's father, getting blown away by a sweep of the Red Dragon's tail was projected into my vision, as Shaza took that opportunity to try to gouge out the eye of the Red Dragon, but instead a grotesque scene of the dragon excitingly biting down on his body occurred.

I came to my senses and gave out instructions.

“We will not battle that directly, we are to retrieve the injured and withdraw. Absolutely avoid instant death. Let us all get out alive.”

『Yes!』

There wasn't any opposition to my orders, there was only the usual reply.

Casting 「Area Barrier」 on all my party members, we stepped into the boss room with a Red Dragon in it.

Chapter 75

Invincible Object X

The 50th floor boss room was very wide. As if built specifically to house the Red Dragon, it was a 100 meter diameter circular room reminiscent of the Adventurer's Guild training ground.

“God of Destiny-sama, Kuraiya-sama, God of Healing-sama, ancestors, please protect me.”

As usual, I dedicated my prayers to the gods and confronted the Red Dragon.

The Red Dragon I was confronting was tremendously huge. Apart from that, thoughts of its sharp fangs and claws, as well as the tough hide covering its whole body, floated in my head.

For some reason, taking a close look at it, I did not feel much fear.

With support from the criminal slaves that attacked to distract it, I rushed to the beastmen that were blown away by its tail and applied 「Area High Heal」 and 「High Heal」 on them, healing them and ordering them to head for the exit.

“If you do not wish to die, follow the guides and leave!”

The beastmen were surprised when they saw me, but they obediently followed the criminal slaves direction and headed for the exit.

The Red Dragon was confused due to our sudden appearance, but seeing its prey escape, it was enraged and spat out a breath of fire. Right at that instant, an enormous Golem suddenly appeared and jump kicked the Red Dragon.

Jasuan-dono's party stiffened as well, but I immediately gave out a command.

“Run!”

However, even though my voice reached Jasuan-dono's party, they refused.

“If we do not defeat this thing here, this labyrinth’s activity will never stop.”

I cast 「Area Barrier」 via silent remote manipulation.

It may be just a consolation, but I do not wish for them to die so easily.

At that moment, the Golem returned to the soil.

Seems like the damage dealt to it was severe.

I judged that I could not persuade them any further, so I decided to support them from the vicinity of the exit and ran for the exit.

“Gugyaaagooooo”

『Don, Dodon』 The Red Dragon manipulated its tail rhythmically and Jasuan-dono and party were sent flying to my direction as a fire breath came chasing after them.

I assumed that my body would get roasted, but Lionel held his large shield up and defended against the breath.

Due to the high heat, Lionel’s shield was on the verge of melting and his skin began to stick to it. I immediately healed him with a 「Middle Heal」. As if it saw my actions, the Red Dragon switched its target to me and began moving.

As I was fleeing, Kefin and Cathy flew out from beside me but the Red Dragon rapidly rotated around, sending the 3 of them including Lionel flying with its tail.

The body of the 3 of them were flung towards the vicinity of the exit. Within my sight were only the Red Dragon, Shaza’s dead body and several adventurers with heavy wounds lying around.

Looking towards the exit, I confirmed that Dolan and Paula had finished evacuating everyone.

The 2 of them held on to magic stones and were constructing the Golem, but maybe because they did in too hastily, the Golem did not solidify and quickly turned back into soil. Seeing that, I found out that even the 2 of them get flustered sometimes.

The distance to the exit was ... 15 meters and the distance to the Red Dragon was also 15 meters. However, the Red Dragon's tail had already closed the distance.

“I don't want to die. I'll struggle and definitely escape from here.”

I transformed the cane into a sword, took out the Holy Dragon's spear and confronted it.

“The sword of dragon slaying and the spear of dragon slaying. Regrettably, I do not have the sufficient ability to handle these. But I will try.”

I rapidly circulated magical power within my body, activating body strengthening and glanced at the Red Dragon's movement.

While slowly but steadily retreating, I waited for its attack. I convinced myself that as long as I have my spear held up, I can receive its tail attack.

And then, the Red Dragon attacked. But instead of the tail attack that I was waiting for, it stepped forward a step and stretched out its arm for an attack.

Ku, I can't make it. I leaped to my side to avoid a mortal wound against that unexpected attack.

『Bun~』 That sound that sounded like the wind getting sliced apart passed by right beside me.

I don't know how I dodged that but I slid my illusionary sword across its defenseless arm, slashing it.

I sensed the feeling of tearing through the tough hide covering the Red Dragon's arm.

As if telling me that it really happened, blood spouted out from the Red Dragon's right arm.

The next instant, the Red Dragon's tail swung down towards me and crushed me.

『Dooooon』

It was such a great impact that it was a wonder that I was not dead. I've never been run over by a truck before, but that's the nearest analogy I could give from my previous life to describe the impact.

It was a state whereby I could not move my body at all.

Without any time to collect my thoughts, I don't know if it was because of the adrenaline correspondingly pumping through my body, but I didn't feel any pain.

Perhaps due to survival instinct, my brain invoked 「High Heal」 with no chant.

As a pale light enveloped my body, my sight gradually cleared up and sounds came back to me.

What I saw was a large maw opened wide as it cried out in joy, the figure of the Red Dragon advancing towards me to devour me.

Looking around the boss room, I saw the entrance and exit burning crimson red as Lionel and others were lying right beside me. I might have lost consciousness for a brief moment.

Most likely they entered to aid me ...

Did I hang in there considerably well for my second life? Well, I guess I did hang in there well.

I landed a strike on a dragon and I even became an S-rank healer.

Moreover, I received support from a great number of people.

The church will continue functioning without me around and my status was way too over the top in the first place.

I was even promoted ... Or was I really?

Is it alright to give up here?

I was promoted but did I live happily?

I did not have the chance to slowly tour the city.

I still had not begun the development of the magic tools.

Above all, is my current life going to end without me getting married once again?

Give up ... If I give up ...

“Like I’ll die in a place like this~!!”

The instant it almost devoured me, I took out a barrel from my magic bag and threw it into its mouth, as I rolled out with my body and used 「Extra Heal」 .

I was attacked by a brief moment of intense pain but it was indeed just an instant of pain as my body completely recovered and I stood up, looking at the figure of the Red Dragon writhing madly.

” ... Do monsters really suffer that badly from that?”

I immediately applied 「High Heal」 to Lionel and others and a 『Doshin』 sound echoed through the boss room.

” ... Seriously?”

Looking towards the sound, I saw the Red Dragon passed out foaming through its mouth.

“This will do it?”

I immediately channeled magical power through the illusionary sword that was beside me and slashed at its neck, the blade passed through without any resistance. The Red Dragon convulsed and shifted towards the opposite direction but the neck was completely sliced through so the head and body were fully separated.

At that moment, the tremendously large Red Dragon vanished like it was all an illusion.

And on the place the Red Dragon’s head fell on, a single magic book and a large crimson red magic stone appeared and a greatsword was stabbed into the ground.

I stored those items into my magic bag and applied healing magic on the adventurers who were a slightly away from me.

Lionel and Cathy looked at me with eyes of disbelief.

No, not only the 2 of them, everyone else had the same look on their faces.

“He killed the dragon.”

“He killed an invulnerable dragon.”

“It’s a dragon slayer healer.”

Gradually such sprinkling of words could begin to be heard.

“Luciel-dono, how did you kill the Red Dragon?”

So that was why Lionel was looking at me with eyes of disbelief.

“I was crushed by the Red Dragon’s tail right? For a while after that, it seems like I lost consciousness, but when I came to, the maw of the Red Dragon was approaching in front of my eyes. I thought ‘I will not perish here!’, and in a sink or swim moment, I threw a barrel of Object X into its mouth and it fainted from the agony, that was when I beheaded it.”

“What!”

Lionel’s expression stiffened and Cathy ... Cathy and the surrounding beastmen were afraid of Object X.

“Luciel-dono, this time, you saved us. If it was only us we would have definitely faced complete annihilation.”

“I guess. As a penalty to Jasuan-dono exposing us to danger here, shall I have Jasuan-dono drink Object X?”

As I grinned, Jasuan-dono performed a beautiful jumping dogeza and begged for forgiveness.

“Well then, I shall humanely ask why you all followed Shaza. I didn’t imagine that you all would risk your lives to partake in this labyrinth capture. The gods will be angered if you do not cherish your lives.”

I dispassionately continued with an angered expression.

The beastmen all began prostrating on the ground all at once, unanimously speaking the words of promise.

『Ye,yes~』

In the past, if there were reincarnated individuals, they definitely taught that to the beastmen.

As I had that thought, I purified the room and healed the injured individuals with healing magic.

In the meantime, Jasuan-dono prayed for the corpse of Shaza before retrieving it, leaving a strong impression on me.

After finishing all that, I got sleepy as expected. I bet that the labyrinth case would not end with that so I left it to my escorts as I went to sleep.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

I’ve finally done it, Invincible Object X.

This chapter ended up radiating the brilliance of Object X.

I am reflecting on it, but I do not regret it.

However, I am sorry for getting carried away. (___)

Chapter 76

Criteria to enter the 51st floor

Upon waking up from my pleasant sleep, there was a magic circle floating in the middle of the boss room. And similar to the Labyrinth of Tribulations, at the back of the boss room, there was a large door.

After stretching and sitting up, Lionel spoke out.

“Are you fine now?”

“Yeah. I’ve completely recovered. How are the other groups?”

“They’ve begun returning to the Adventurer’s Guild a little while earlier. Once they return to the Adventurer’s Guild, they will begin squeezing down on the people involved in this incident, including the Herbalist Guild Gurohara.”

” ... I feel sorry for the opponents of Jasuan-dono when he is in that state.”

“That ... fu~ indeed.”

We both laughed together.

“This time, it was dangerous as expected. If that Red Dragon did not intend to devour me I would have died.”

“I’m also far from my heyday, as one would expect, I could not stop that.”

“You don’t look like you’re reflecting though.”

“Indeed, allow me to serve as your training opponent when we return.”

“Cathy will also do that nya. I felt master’s considerable strength when confronting the Red Dragon.”

Cathy mixed into our conversation with a sleepy look.

However, the keen look in her eye was untouched by her grogginess.

“There’s only 1 task remaining before we return.”

I said while looking at the large door at the back of the room.

“Don’t we just return with the magic circle?”

“Master, are you still half asleep nya?”

But the 2 of them had no reactions and only had forced smiles.

” ... There’s no way we’re not going to open that door after coming all this way right?”

I pointed at the large door but ??? floated above both their heads.

(Don’t tell me I’m the only 1 that sees that? Holy Dragon, you didn’t tell me about this setting!)

” ... We will depart after everyone wakes up so please wait a moment.”

He’s embarrassed from being half asleep ...

The 2 of them judged that was the case and bowed, returning to where Naria was at.

I walked towards the large door alone and touched the door.

“I wonder what conditions are required for this?”

Unlike the Labyrinth of Tribulations, a shining scarlet emblem appeared.

“Ku, it sucks in magical power after all. However, looks like it’s not related to attribute.”

In the Labyrinth of Tribulations, without drinking MP potions, I would have fallen into the brink of magical power depletion, but this time, I still had more than half of my magical power.

I was honestly pleased as it meant that I had grown stronger.

As might be expected, quietly going up would be a problem, so I left the door for a bit and called out to the person nearest to me, Kefin.

“Kefin! Can you see a large door there?”

” ... Isn’t it just a wall?”

Tilting his head as he stared at me, it seems like he can’t see the large door like Lionel and others.

(Is it due to the influence of my blessing that makes it such that I can see it?)

“Is that so ... Then please convey to Lionel and the others to quickly transfer to the labyrinth’s entrance using the magic circle after I’ve disappeared. I’ll also add on that this is an order.”

” ... May I follow?”

He was half believing and half in disbelief but I guess he chose to believe me. I thought that it was a good tendency of his as I answered.

“No, it seems like I am the only one being called so it’s impossible. Please have everyone observe my orders.”

『Pon pon』 I tapped Kefin’s shoulder before heading for the door.

Right before I open the door, I looked back and saw Lionel and others with sceptical looks, but they nodded and bowed.

I raised my hand and asked them to go in my mind. I opened the door and entered. As I began ascending the stairs, the door behind me slowly closed but I proceeded without regard to it.

“I wonder if my Divine Protection of the Holy Dragon and Blessing of the God of Healing would disappear if I do not release the sealed dragon here despite the fact that stage had been set.”

As I muttered, I finished climbing the stairs and crouched down. Peeping into the 51st floor, similar to the Holy Dragon, there was a dragon waiting obediently.

Although the dragon had flames wrapped around its body, it had black miasma mixed in and was in the process of terribly turning into undead.

“Holy Dragon, it’s been corroded even more into an undead than you were? Is it really okay to release them within 40 years?”

I muttered but there was no reply from the Holy Dragon.

As I channeled magical power into my illusionary cane, I weaved a chant. At the very least, I wish for the Flame Dragon to not suffer any longer.

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, like wings of light, using a shield of purification, create a sanctuary that sears everything wicked and impure. Sanctuary Circle.】

Similar to how I did it that time for the Holy Dragon, I remote chanted the magic circle for 「Sanctuary Circle」 and it enveloped the Flame Dragon when it was triggered.

As if the Flame Dragon did not notice the 「Sanctuary Circle」, it did not cry out or trash around, enduring the pain.

A while later, the pale light of the 「Sanctuary Circle」 disappeared.

The black miasma disappeared from the Flame Dragon’s body and the previously harsh blood red flames turned into a gentle sunset-like glow.

I took a deep breath as I approached the Flame Dragon when I heard the Flame Dragon's voice echo in my head.

«Individual who released me from the Evil God's seal, I thank thee for releasing my curse after thou saved the Holy Dragon.»

” ... That telepathy ... are you the one doing the telepathic communication?”

«Yes. As long as thou possess the Holy Dragon's Blessing, my words can reach thee through telepathy. Unfortunately, I no longer have the strength to open my mouth.
»

... That 40 year time period the Holy Dragon mentioned, it's for the hero to be born and not for the remaining survival time of the dragons?

“How many more reincarnation dragons are there? And why am I the only person allowed to enter here?”

«The condition is to have acquired the skill needed to remove the seal. Other than that, if one is not bestowed with a God's Blessing or Dragon's Blessing, one will not be able to see the door.»

... So if I did not have the Blessing of the God of Destiny I would not become the liberator? Why was I pinpointed to become the liberator?

As the Flame Dragon scratched his head, I realised that he was not thinking about the number of dragons as I asked. I was about to ask again when the voice once again echoed in my mind.

«As a reward for defeating me on thy own and with just a single strike, I gift thee the treasures here as well as my blessing. I would love to offer my body's scales and fangs like how the Holy Dragon did, but they would disintegrate when my soul disappears.
»

That's not what I wanted to know.

” ... I am thankful for the treasures, but is it normal for an ordinary person to possess several blessings?”

«Fret not, heroes can receive blessings from the gods as well as from us dragons.»

I am slightly reassured but to be compared with heroes ... only makes me more anxious.

“I will gratefully receive it.”

«Thou are as interesting a person as how the Holy Dragon mentioned. Kukuku.»

“I really can’t do much more. I only wish to have a peaceful life and someday meet a wife to spend my time with.”

«Oo! I almost forgot. Thou who possess both the Holy Dragon’s Blessing and my blessing will someday be led by fate to meet the priestess holding the Dragon God’s Blessing.»

It looks like he is already absolutely set on passing his blessing on to me. Is it because the Dragon race doesn’t listen to others that the Dragonewts are so heedless as well? ... Rather than that ...

” ... Is the Dragon God Priestess pretty? And how old is she?” *(TL: Lol Luciel has his priorities right)*

«Kukuku. So thou are those who care about outward appearances. Let fate guide you. As the one who governs love, I guarantee that thy love will have chemistry.»

No, that is exactly what I should be worried about right. Rather than that ... there’s such a thing as a destined significant other? Ha!? Wait this is bad. I must decline.

” ... I was able to break through the Labyrinth of Tribulations because of good compatibility, but I would not have been able to do so alone this time. I do not believe that a person like me can break through other labyrinths.”

«Thou are still green. Is personal strength everything? If thou can get help from others, that is strength as well. Just like how thou broke through this Labyrinth of Astray, trust in others. Be trusted by others. I pray that thou becomes an admirable sage.»

“Of course, I will ... ha? Sage?”

«It is fine as long as thou do what thou can. Please save my brethren.»

“I’ve already promised that to the Holy Dragon so it’s fine, but rather than that, what did you mean by sage?”

“Kukuku. Thou, what is thy name.”

The Flame Dragon suddenly stopped using telepathic communication and talked.

” ... It’s Luciel.”

I answered despite being surprised.

“Luciel, hold up the cane that thou made from the Holy Dragon’s fang.”

“Like this?”

Without answering, a scarlet light was sucked into my illusionary cane.

“Good luck Luciel. I have also fulfilled my promise ... Fi ... ru ... na ...”

The Flame Dragon laughed. And then his body began to collapse.

“Wait, I still have things ... I wish to ask. Holy Dragon and Flame Dragon too, don’t just disappear whenever you wish.”

Like a phoenix from fairy tales, the Flame Dragon’s body caught fire and disappeared without a trace.

Similar to the Holy Dragon, where the Flame Dragon was, a large magic stone and treasure chest appeared, with a small jewel within the chest.

“Wha?!”

The next moment, the necklace I obtained from the Holy Dragon treasure chest flew out on its own and the jewel attached itself to it.

” ... Seriously?”

I did not notice before, but the jewel fit perfectly into the slot. And inferring from the sockets, there are still 7 jewels remaining.

” ... I’ve released 2 ... is it enough? Haha”

As I made excuses for myself, I was absent minded for a moment before considering the feelings of the others waiting for me, I switched gears and began moving.

To be on the safe side, I applied purification magic and began rapidly storing the items in my magic bag.

“Gold that I’ve never seen before and books that I can’t read again ... is this an extremely old labyrinth?”

As I muttered that, apart from the magic stone in the center, I kept everything in my magic bag before jumping into the magic circle.

And similar to when I did so after meeting the Holy Dragon, the magic circle began shining.

『Ping』 【Title “Divine Protection of the Flame Dragon” obtained】

『Ping』 【Title “Dragon (*Japanese Dragon* 竜) Slayer” obtained】 (*TL: Just to clarify, the title he got after defeating the Holy Dragon is “Dragon (Oriental Dragon 龍) Slayer”*)

『Ping』 【Title “One guided by the Dragon God” obtained】

When the light died down, I found myself at the entrance of the labyrinth.

Reflected in my eyes after I had transferred was the figures of everyone running up towards me.

Chapter 77

The real mastermind and new problems

By the time I exited the labyrinth, the sun had already risen high in the sky.

At the same time, my stomach embarrassingly rumbled ... but it seemed like everyone else was hungry too so we had breakfast together.

“Anyway, so there really was a door there?”

“Yeah. Looks like one cannot enter if they do not possess a blessing. I have the dragon’s blessing so I could see the door and enter it. The Flame Dragon said so, so it should be true.”

” ... Flame Dragon?”

Lionel looked like he really wanted to fight with a dragon.

I laughed and answered.

“I didn’t really fight it anyway. I merely healed the suffering dragon.”

“I see...”

The others were waiting for people that can cook so I left to help. As I pondered that Lionel really was a battle maniac to want to fight with a dragon, I found out later that he had other things troubling him but he did not want to bother me at that moment.

Other than the few adventurers that stayed behind to take care of Fornoir and the horses, the others had already returned to the town of Ienith. How impatient~ ... I thought as I made breakfast and invited the adventurers that stayed behind.

Breakfast was exceptionally delicious under the sunny sky.

It would be great if I could have a barbecue with my subordinates next time.

I thought.

After breakfast, once everybody had completed their preparations, I saddled Fornoir.

Everyone took their escort formation and we departed for the town of Ienith.

“You were sulking until just now but ... does purification magic really feel that good?”

I stroked the nape of Fornoir’s neck as I asked.

There wasn’t any reply but I could feel that his mood was better so I was relieved.

Maybe he was irritated by his body odour after having been left alone for 5 days.

I talked to Fornoir who unknowingly had come to enjoy cleanliness as we travelled.

(Status open)

On the way to the labyrinth, I conversed with Jasuan-dono and it was a good way to kill time.

On the way back, I jested with Fornoir at the start but I soon became bored with the flat road and nobody came over to talk so I opened my status to kill some time.

Name:	Luciel	LV:	102 (100↑)
Job:	Healer X (1↑)	HP:	3020 (2160↑)
	Holy Dragon Knight I	MP:	2610 (2040↑)
Age:	18	ST:	(Not Stated)
STR:	366 (222↑)	INT:	422 (260↑)
VIT:	389 (222↑)	MGI:	460 (274↑)
DEX:	351 (210↑)	RMG:	454 (276↑)
AGI:	369 (236↑)	SP:	205 (203↑)
【Skills】			
「Proficiency Appraisal—」		「Parallel Thinking V」 (1↑)	
「Great luck—」		「Chant Shortening VII」 (2↑)	
「Taijutsu VI」		「Chant Termination V」 (2↑)	
「Magical Power Control X」 (1↑)		「No Chant II」 (1↑)	
「Magical Power Manipulation X」 (1↑)		「Magic Circle IV」 (1↑)	
「Holy Magic X」 (1↑)		「Sword Mastery V」 (1↑)	
「Meditation VIII」 (1↑)		「Shield Mastery VI」 (1↑)	
「Concentration IX」 (1↑)		「Spear Mastery IV」	

「HP Recovery VIII」 (1↑)	「Archery I」
「MP Recovery IX」 (1↑)	「Presence Perception V」 <i>(Not Stated)</i>
「Stamina Recovery VII」	「Twin Spear Sword Technique IV」 (1↑)
「Throwing V」	「Trap Sensing II」
「Dismantling II」	「Trap Detection I」
「Danger Perception V」 (1↑)	「Cartography IV」 (1↑)
「Footwork VI」	「Magical Power Amplification III」
「Body Strengthening II」	「Thought Acceleration III」 (1↑)
「HP Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)	「MP Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)
「ST Increased Rate of Growth VIII」 <i>(Not Stated)</i>	「STR Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)
「VIT Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)	「DEX Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)
「AGI Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)	「INT Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)
「MGI Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)	「RMG Increased Rate of Growth IX」 (1↑)
「Physical Ability Increased Rate of Growth III」 (1↑)	
「Poison Resistance IX」 (1↑)	「Weakness Resistance IX」 (1↑)
「Paralysis Resistance IX」 (1↑)	「Magic Seal Resistance IX」 (1↑)
「Petrification Resistance IX」 (1↑)	「Disease Resistance IX」 (1↑)
「Sleep Resistance IX」 (1↑)	「Blunt Damage Resistance VI」
「Charm Resistance V」	「Daze Resistance VII」 (1↑)
「Curse Resistance IX」 (1↑)	「Mental Resistance IX」 (1↑)
「Slash Resistance VII」 (2↑)	「Pierce Resistance V」 (1↑)
【Titles】	
「Altered Destiny」	All status +10
「God of Destiny's blessing」	Increased SP acquisition
「Blessing of the God of Healing」	Potency of Holy attribute healing magic increased by 1.5 times
「Divine Protection of the Holy Dragon」	Become a Holy Dragon Knight, increase in combat skills and status.
	It is now possible to converse with the dragon race

「Dragon (<i>Oriental Dragon</i>) Slayer」	Become stronger in attack and defence against dragons
「One who unleashed the seal」	Immune to the curse of the evil god. Capable of obtaining the power of sealed dragons
「Divine Protection of the Flame Dragon」	Become a Flame Dragon Knight, grants related attribute. Increase in combat skills and status. It is now possible to converse with the dragon race
「Dragon (<i>Japanese Dragon 竜</i>) Slayer」	Become stronger in attack and defence against dragons
「One guided by the Dragon God」	Relationship with the Dragon race and those who follow the dragons strengthens

(TL: For some reason the Stamina value and Stamina growth skill is gone. Not sure if typo or something significant as of now.)

I doubted the eyes. My level rose by 12 all of a sudden.

My status also rose by a considerable amount.

Furthermore, once I passed Lvl100 my SP rose by 3 instead of 2.

... So this level up was possible with the Flame Dragon.

So it's possible to power level after all?

MP increases as I level up. If I can establish that...

There may be adverse effects to leveling so easily so it would be safer to talk to the Pope and the people from the Church Headquarters first and I switched gears.

Looking at the skills that did not rise as usual, I noticed something right before I closed the status page. *(TL: Most likely the skill level ups you see above happened right before Luciel left the Church Headquarters and stopped drinking Object X.)*

(I'm granted the attribute of the Flame Dragon? Without a proper explanation I don't understand it at all?)

“Burrururuu”

Maybe I wasn't really paying attention to riding, Fornoir scolded me and I was jolted back to reality. I apologized and closed my status window. From then on, I enjoyed the horse riding experience until we reached Ienith.

“What is that?”

The first words that came out of my mouth when we arrived at Ienith were that.

The scene before me was an overflowing number of Ienith residents awaiting our return.

We ... no, upon seeing my figure, the residents began cheering.

Looking at that spectacle, I felt like hugging my head.

Looks like that muscle-brained Jias-dono forgot about my clear instructions to not broadcast our actions.

I knew that it would have been seriously troublesome if I did not have everyone escorting me to keep the residents at bay.

Without answering to their cheers, I had a twitching smile on as we followed the human path leading not to the Healer's Guild, but to Shaza's mansion.

Kefin and the criminal slaves entered the mansion last and shut the door behind them.

” ... Did you hear the cheers just now? They had eyes like they were looking at a hero from fairy tales. They shouted “Dragonlayer!” “Dragon-slaying Paladin!” “Apostle of the God of Healing!” “Strongest S-rank Healer!” “Dragon Slaying Healer!””

” ... Well, it's the truth so there's no helping it.”

“He certainly did slay a dragon nya.”

“He mostly defeated it alone.”

“We were there just as supporting characters.”

“S-rank-sama was sturdy enough to receive the full brunt of the dragon’s attack without dying. I admire him as even the combat force from an attack that I dodged was enough to defeat me although I survived due to sheer luck.”

“I can imagine master’s concerns but with master around, the peace and security of the Healer’s Guild is assured.”

Beginning with Lionel, Naria concluded the conversation.

The other slaves chimed in as well but they were somehow delighted so I did not rain on their parade.

I walked towards Shaza’s mansion.

“Ooo! Luciel-dono ... Luciel-sama? Did your blessing somehow become stronger? And why do you have such a scary look on your face?”

Feeling irritated from Jias-dono’s peppy voice, I held on to my resolute determination and told him.

“The blessing is because I defeated the Red Dragon. Rather than that, what’s with the triumphal parade?”

“Since you had such a grand accomplishment. To celebrate the arrival of a new hero, albeit a somewhat small scale one, it is to be expected.”

In front of that Jasuan-dono who was speaking proudly, I silently took out 2 cups of Object X from the barrel. *(TL: The author suddenly changed from Jias-dono to Jasuan-dono. I have a feeling he meant Jasuan-dono for the whole chapter.)*

“I see. If it was done in consideration for me then let us toast to it.”

I changed from an expressionless face to a grin as I approached Jasuan-dono.

“Lu, Lu, Luciel-sama? Ha, have I done something that displeases you?”

“... No, I merely wish to have a toast with you? Don’t tell me you don’t want to do so?”

” ... ”

Jasuan-dono’s whole body was trembling violently, but I will not pardon him.

Nobody would be troubled even he faints here.

Moreover, there are no beastmen that would come to his aid.

Almost all the members are prostrating themselves on the ground so even if Jasuan-dono calls for help they can't respond.

“Well then, cheers.”

I gulped down the Object X in one go and Jasuan-dono also opened his large mouth to drink it in one go ... but the next instant his eyes rolled back and he fell backwards.

“Ah~ Now I feel refreshed. He stinks so I'll cast 「Purification」 and 「Recover」 on him.”

I asked for someone to carry the fainted Jasuan-dono to somewhere he can rest and they quickly came rushing out to carry Jasuan-dono away.

“Well then, please describe to me what happened.”

I smiled slightly and they obediently informed me step-by-step.

Although this time the mastermind was the vice guild leader of the Herbalist Guild, the truth was that it was directed by the Elimasia Empire to dampen the national power of Ienith.

Various combat factions, including Shaza, received solicitations from the Elimasia Empire and were taught ways to silence the moderate factions.

And the reason why they could tie up the other races was because they did not sell medicine to specific races.

Because they were prevented from speaking with the adventurers chasing after them in the labyrinth, they did not hear about the recent happenings.

The reason why they could proceed so deep into the labyrinth was because they scattered things with the odour that monsters like and covered their own body with medication with an odour that monsters avoid, so they were fine.

It's just like Object X~ I thought as I thought about the name of the mastermind – Elimasia Empire.

The name Elimasia Empire came up once again ... I've been nothing but a hindrance to them right?

I wonder if I am hated by the empire because of all this?

No matter how much I thought about it I wouldn't have an answer for it so I pushed it to the back of my head and tried asking what we should do hereafter.

How do you correct this incident that greatly shook the foundations of the country?

I was interested in that.

How will they tell the residents, how will they rise up and prosper? I wanted to use that as a reference for the Healer's Guild.

"This time, the representative of this city Shaza-dono was, unfortunately, slain and you all may pursue the Herbalist Guild's Gurohara-dono, but how would you all address this case as a country?"

The person who answered me was the previous previous representative, Shiela's father.

"... We will first choose 8 representatives from the tribes. We will then vote on the individuals chosen from the Dog, Wolf, Cat, Tiger, Dragon, Fox, Bird and Rabbit, apart from the representative race chosen the previous term as well as me, to choose the new representative."

"Okay. I'm listening."

"As a penalty for this incident, the Tiger beastmen and Dragonewt beastmen will be deprived of their right to become Ienith's representative for 5 terms."

"... I see. But isn't it too lenient with just that?"

"Yes. In addition, we have decided to have all the executives from those 2 races resign. We will also scrutinise their departments for any fraud."

"I see. So at the end of the day, what do you plan to do?"

When I asked that, he adjusted his bearing and stared at me.

” ... ”

” ...? ”

Is there something on me? Just as I wanted to ask, he decisively performed a beautiful prostrated pose on the ground.

“For the remaining one year term of office, please lend us your power.”

Not only him, all the beastmen that welcomed us prostrated all together and called out.

『We beg of you.』

Is this some kind of period drama? I’m not wrong to have such thoughts right?

“Ha?”

“What the beastmen need is a strong, kind leader that they can look up towards. Luciel-dono is the only person that can prevent Ienith from dividing.”

He’s saying that I have a unifying force, a sense of charisma? ... Seems like the rumors were blown out of proportion.

” ... You mean you want to borrow my name?”

I would be troubled if the country declines after all ... I don’t want to lend it but there’s no choice.

” ... Just now, I sent an errand to ask the Pope from Saint Schull church to allow Luciel-dono to become the temporary representative for Ienith. If she agrees, we would like to, by all means, hear your methods to enrich Ienith. We will give our full efforts.”

” ... Aren’t you being too willful? I have a mission to establish the Healer’s Guild and healer clinic in these lands as well? I also do not have any experience as a representative so there’s no way I can do it.”

I seriously hope they give me a break. Even now, I already have too much on my plate, any more is impossible.

“With regards to the Healer’s Guild and healer clinic, we have already advanced talks about constructing a healing district within Ienith. The Herbalist Guild has also acknowledged the synergistic nature of your work and we have arranged for a new construction site for you. Also, you can renovate the building so it is also possible for Luciel-sama to live in the Healer’s Guild. The ex-slums residents have also received work in the healing district so they are thankful towards Luciel-sama and the Healer’s Guild.”

After saying that enthusiastically, he once again rubbed his head against the floor to beg of me as my stomach began to hurt.

” ... Please give me some time to think about it. It is not content that I can immediately decide on after all, and it is a heavy load so I have to discuss this with the Pope as well.”

I no longer wanted to remain there. So I returned.

“I hope you come to a favourable conclusion.”

『Please treat us favourably』

Thus, my refreshed feeling from Jasuan-dono did an 180 flip, I felt a heavy weight as I returned to the Healer’s Guild.

Exiting the door, the number of people have certainly decreased, but the young men and women remained and looked at me from afar.

I saw that their gazes were like those of admiration for heroes from stories.

I pondered about how to answer to this as I muttered on the way back to the Healer’s Guild.

“Not only Jasuan-dono, I’ll have to have the person who planned this all along, Gurohara, to drink plenty of Object X.”

The beastmen who heard my mutterings trembled in fear, but I did not notice as I was burning with anger at that time.

Chapter 78

Is this what they call middle management?

Returning to the Healer's Guild, I told nobody to enter the master's room as I collapsed on the table and wished for a place to escape to ...

That was what I truly felt as I recounted the contents of the previous conversation to the Pope.

«You are certainly as competent as Father, to be able to produce results so quickly.»

She spoke happily but getting equated to that flawless superman Sir Rainstar is nothing but a nuisance.

“I have been blessed with interpersonal luck since arriving here and defeating the dragon was also totally because I had good luck.”

I didn't just keep it in my mind, I also spilled out my real feelings.

«Luciel, with regards to your Holy attribute magic, there might not be any that can stand side-by-side you. However with regards to guild management, there should be many that are more excellent than you.»

I had a sense of discomfort from that cutting words but it is a fact that I do not know many things about the management of the guild so I could only respond with a nod.

“The subordinates that I brought along are certainly competent.”

I only have fragments of knowledge regarding this world.

There may have been proper chances made for me to understand more but, more than anything, I placed my own life as top priority so I sacrificed other aspects but ...

«Originally, you intended to remain in Ienith for a couple of years right?»

?! ... Why is it? That I have a terribly bad premonition.

“That is true but I am a healer?”

«With this incident, the connection within Ienith would strengthen and the backing of the connections would become more powerful right?»

I think so ... but, I really don't want to stand out any more than this.

“I don't want to stand out any more than this. S-rank healer, dragon-slayer? That's not normal. And I've also been attached the title of Ienith's representative...”

«That doesn't change anything. You were flown to the Church Headquarters originally precisely because you stood out. You can drink the God's Grief liquefied product, Object X, perfectly fine, you perfectly heal any wounds for just 1 silver coin, you became the Healer's Guild's only S-rank healer and you've even made the guidelines and legislations. Does that change if dragon-slayer and Ienith representative are added to that list?»

I only wished for my safety.

Thanks to my encounter luck from Great Luck-sensei, I met Shisho and received training.

Is there nowhere for me to live quietly?

“Is it possible for me to apply for long term rest?”

«Of course. Just by travelling you spread the church's prestige and provide healing. But those are not behaviours that we impose on you. Which is why it is fine to be at ease and rest when you can.»

I was relieved when I heard those words.

“If that's the case, can I take a break from now onwards?”

I happily raised my voice. However, reality is uncertain after all.

《Very well. That burden will fall on your subordinates but if that is the path you choose then it's fine.》 *(TL: Ouch blackmailing him with his sense of responsibility. Well, you can say that she is training his management skills but she is kind of a ***** today lol.)*

That was said with a tone that did not change at all but I felt a gouging sharp pain in my heart. Is this what you mean by middle management, senpai?

” ... I understand. However, I can only do what I can do myself. Moreover, even if I am called an S-rank, my core occupation is a healer. Once I tidy up this incident, I will set off on a journey.”

《Of course, there has been such plans all along.》

With a voice that sounded like she was resisting from laughing out from astonishment, I told her that I would contact her again and cut the connection from the magic communication bead.

” ... It's fine if I obtain some skills right? Broad-shisho.”

After saying that, I began to view the skills acquirable with my SP.

Broad-shisho was furious when I consulted him.

“Idiot! The skills you can acquire using SP depends on your own disposition. If you can't decide, then nobody can. Luciel, you should not forcibly acquire skills when you are lost. The skills that you truly need changes according to the path you take. Which is why there is no need to be impatient.”

Which is why, although I have been checking them as I leveled up, I have not acquired any due to my indecisiveness.

” ... Eh?”

The moment I operate my SP, I notice something different from usual.

” ... Don't tell me I've obtained aptitude in Fire?”

My tension rose past the ceiling from the unexpected windfall but after pondering for a bit, my tension rapidly deflated.

“I don’t think there’s a Magician’s Guild in this city.”

After my fleeting moment of joy, I looked at the skills 「Appraisal」 and 「Supreme Luck」 as I thought. *(TL: I changed Absolute Luck to Supreme Luck because Supreme fits the kanji used better. For reference it is the 2nd highest tier of luck, with Heaven’s Luck above it.)*

“For skills that I really need ... Paula can handle magic tools and Dolan blacksmithing. Monster Handling will allow one to raise a monster from its baby stage, giving it chance to foster attachment but I don’t need it in my current lifestyle ... or do I?” *(TL: 従魔 The kanji for Monster Handling uses the kanji for monster subordination/dependency)*

With that troubled last sentence, I once again closed the status screen without acquiring any skills.

As soon as I left the room, a nice smell entered my nose.

“Even though she isn’t a cook, Naria can really cook well~”

While having that thought, I walked down to the first floor.

“Everyone, although you all have been celebrating after returning, I would like to apologize.”

I entered with an apology. I was having quite a temper so after I took out a large amount of ingredients for lunch and asked for Naria’s aid, I shut myself in the guildmaster’s room.

“I’ve roughly heard about it. That’s rough.”

“Yeah. The Pope said that by becoming the representative, our talks would advance quicker. She would also like Jordo-san and everyone else to focus on the Healing District.”

“... Does that mean we will take over the Healer’s Guild from Luciel-dono’s responsibility?”

“I would like that but after talking with the Pope, I’ve decided to do so only after I finish my meeting with the Herbalist Guild guildmaster. Which is why, until this incident settle down, you will all still be my subordinates.”

“I’m glad that’s the case.”

I had a feeling that Jordo-san felt relieved.

” ... Is there something?”

” ... To be honest, aren’t the beastmen adventurers and Dragonewt guildmaster and vice-guildmaster quite scary when seen up close? Seems like it would be a hard time working out the details with them too so thank you in advance.”

He said that and relied on me.

“Yeah. For about 10 days we will proceed with the current organization but once the talks are official, please lend me your strength.”

“Yes. Likewise.”

“Master, Jordo-sama, the preparation for food is complete.”

Naria called out and we headed for the dining table.

Currently present were the subordinates that came with me from the church and the slaves. Even though I can’t even manage this organization well as the top, it is insane for me to become Ienith’s representative.

I began speaking.

“Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for protecting the Healer’s Guild. Even though we had help from the adventurers and Dragonewts from the Adventurer’s Guild, I can imagine that you all have accumulated a lot of stress under the gaze of many beastmen in an unfamiliar land. Thank you.”

When I said that, everyone responded with a nod.

“Next, for the slaves, thanks to you all giving your best to fight, we safely completed our goal for going to the labyrinth and even successfully broke through the labyrinth. That is, without a doubt, thanks to you all. Later, I will interview every one of you individually, so please come to the master room after your meals.”

『Yes!』

“And to celebrate your safe return and your protection of the Healer’s Guild without issue, please eat your fill.”

While enjoying Naria's especially luxurious cooking, I thought about what I plan to do from now on.

I heard a knock.

"Enter."

The person who entered was Lionel.

"Lionel. Going by your achievements this time, I am even willing to remove your slave contract. Moreover, could you still lend me a hand?"

Generally, the conditions for removal of slave contract are stipulated. He would need to commit effort a multitude of the 5 gold coin he was purchased for and as long as he himself wishes for it, it can be done.

I was taught the slave contract removal conditions by the first-visit-refusal slave dealer Reruga.

"... I refuse."

As expected, it would be hard to get such an accomplished warrior to aid me ...

"... I understand. I will then cast 「Dispel」 to remove the slave contract. Please confirm that the contract has been removed after I have cast."

Lionel put out his hand and I paused.

"The favour I received for your healing is the favour of a lifetime. Please allow me to accompany Luciel-sama on your journey as a slave."

Lionel said so with a smile.

It wasn't only Lionel. Cathy, Naria, Dolan, Paula, and Kefin rejected my offer to remove their slave contract.

The slaves apart from Kefin told me that they wish to accompany me as slaves for as long as I stay in this city.

They told me that they have learnt various things as slaves of the Healer's Guild.

Using that acquired knowledge not for ill, but to relive their lives in Ienith with the others from the slums.

They all said the same thing. They wish to create a self-sustainable environment and rebuilt the slums, different from the slums that was the bottom of the society.

I had given out a command to not speak any lies, but I could immediately tell that they were not lying even if I did not give the command. The expressions they had as they talked about their dreams had plenty of persuasiveness.

“Aspirations huh. If surviving is my goal and objective, then I have not aspired for anything since coming to this world.”

Thus, I thought about what dreams I desire late until the night.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

The 5th book ends here.

We will enter the 6th book after this, but I believe the story will proceed to the internal affairs that deviate from the simple approach/noble path after all.

I appreciate your viewership.